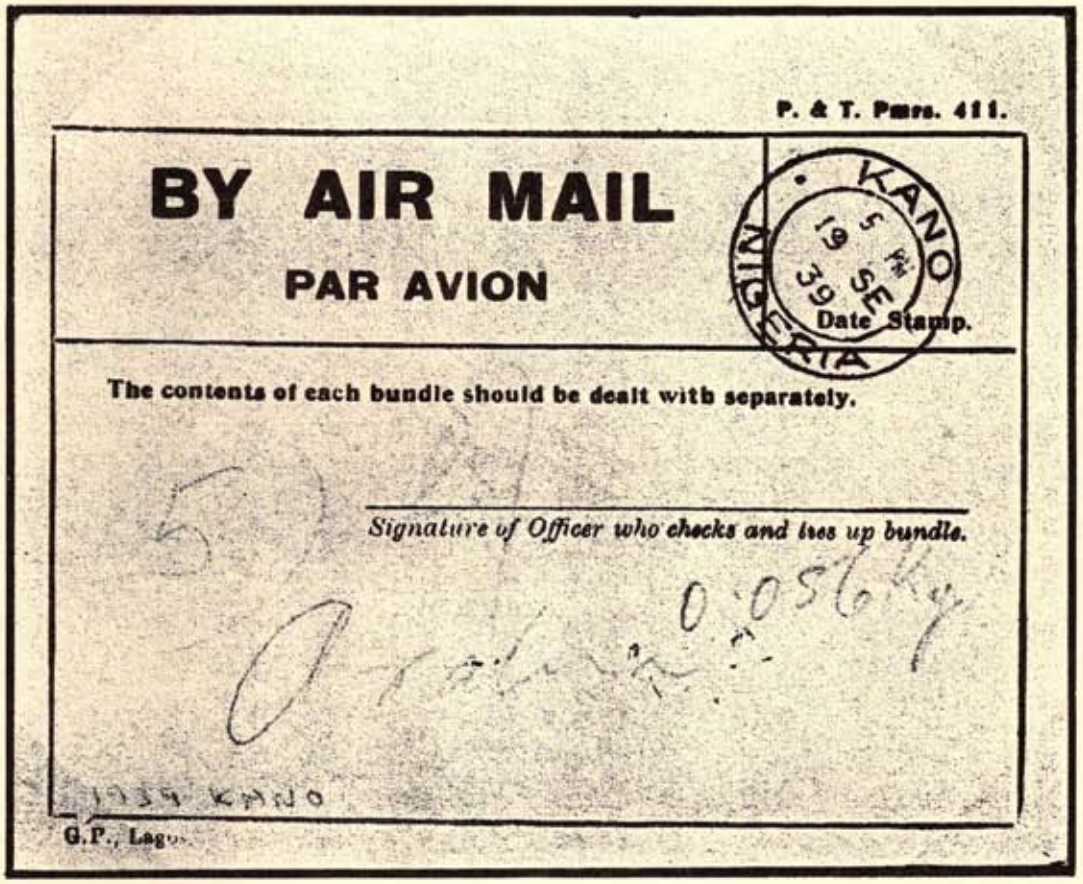
CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



Volume 6
Number 4

Whole Number 50

July 1999

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Editorial

The West Africa Study Circle's constitution and rules were established many years ago and have for some time been ripe for renewal. Under the leadership of our President, Oliver Andrew, a revised set has been circulated for comment, duly debated and passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 6 March 1999. The members present adopted a new set of rules which are reproduced in full in this edition of *Cameo* . To enable members to have reference to all the Circle's rules, the Guidelines for West Africa Study Circle Publications are also reproduced in this journal.

A large portion of this issue is given over to extracts from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* which Peter Fernbank has provided. The great advantage of the notes provided by *Ewen's* is that they were made at the time when the stamps were being produced. I like to think of this as a parallel to the Machin columns in current British magazines. All of the main countries that we cover are mentioned, but it is the extensive information on the overprints on Togo that make captivating reading.

This edition provides the starting point of a series of articles that I hope will run for a number of journals; Jeremy Martin has been making notes for a number of years relating to West African first flights. The period 1925 to 1936 is covered in the first section. Members are invited to contribute any information that they have, whether it be on years already published or future ones. Jeremy hopes to take all of his data, plus revisions provided by members, and produce a handbook in due course.

I'm sorry if this issue reaches you a week or so later than usual, but I have been very busy in putting the finishing touches to the second edition of *West African Censorship*, which will go to the printers later this month.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

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❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Front Cover

A locally printed bundle label for mail placed on board at Kano, Nigeria. This uncommon label has been discussed in an earlier *Cameo*, Volume 3 page 158.

My thanks to Jack Ince for providing the illustration.

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.



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

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/FrankWalton

The West Africa Study Circle

Constitution and Rules

These rules were adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of 6 March 1999 and replace all previous rules.

1 Name

The circle shall be called The West Africa Study Circle.

2 Objects

The objects and aims of the Circle shall be the study of the postage stamps and postal history of West Africa (and including St Helena, Ascension and British Postal Agencies in Madeira, Tenerife, St. Vincent and Fernando Po), and such other related studies as may from time to time be determined by the Circle in General Meeting: and the diffusion of the findings of such study (by *Cameo*, study papers, bulletins, displays, books, talks etc.). The circle may also facilitate the acquisition and disposal by members of philatelic material, by holding auctions, bourses, and exchange sessions.

Editors for each study area shall be appointed as desirable from within the membership of the Circle.

3 Membership

Any prospective member must apply in writing with the names of two referees. A copy of these rules will then be sent to him/her. The committee will decide whether or not to accept such an application, but shall be under no obligation to disclose the reasons for its decision. The application will only become final on receipt of the current subscription and joining fee.

Admission to membership shall be deemed to signify complete acceptance by the member of the current rules of the Circle and agreement unreservedly to abide by them.

Annual subscriptions, payable in advance, shall become due on January 1 each year. Where a subscription is three months in arrears, membership shall be deemed to have lapsed. Membership may be reinstated at the discretion of the committee, by payment of the annual subscription.

Any member, by ordinary resolution at an Annual General Meeting, may be elected an honorary life member and no prior notice of such a resolution shall be required.

British and overseas societies and study groups with related interests may apply for Associate Membership on such terms as may be determined by the Committee. A member may resign at any time by written notification to the Secretary but no refund of subscription shall be due.

The Committee shall have power to terminate membership and shall not be under any obligation to disclose the reasons for its decision. In such an event termination of membership shall be deemed to become effective one calendar month after written notification shall have been sent by special delivery first class mail to the last known address of the member concerned.

4 Management

Office holders shall be elected by the members in General Meeting and shall be subject to re-election every second year at the appropriate Annual General Meeting. The office holders shall comprise:

- President – elected for one term of office only
- Vice President – elected for one term of office only
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- *Cameo* Editor
- Librarian
- Auctioneer
- Membership Secretary
- Advertising Manager
- Auditor
- Representative in North America and Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Subject to the approval of a General Meeting, additional offices may be created from time to time. A member may hold more than one office simultaneously.

Management shall be vested in a Committee comprising, by virtue of their office, all the above office-holders with the exception of the Auditor. In addition, members who are study editors or past presidents may be co-opted by the Committee.

A quorum of the Committee shall comprise not less than five members at least two of whom shall be the President, Vice President, or any past president.

The Committee may set up sub-committees for any purpose (e.g. Membership, Publications, Commemorations etc.). At least one member of any such sub-committee shall be a current office-holder of the Circle.

The Committee shall have power to affiliate the Circle to other Philatelic bodies.

5 General Meetings

A general meeting of members shall be held in every calendar year for the purpose of election of officers when necessary, adoption of audited accounts, submission of reports by officers and study editors and from others as may be desirable, and for the conduct of any other ordinary business of the Circle. Such meetings shall be known as Annual General Meetings.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of members may be called at any time either by the President, or by any five members of the Committee acting together, or by any 20 members acting together, who shall send to the Secretary a signed request for such a meeting. Whereupon the Secretary shall within one calendar month of the receipt of such request issue a notice convening such a meeting and such notice shall contain the nature of the business proposed.

Notice of all general Meetings shall be despatched to all members, and by airmail to overseas members, at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

At all General meetings the President shall be the Chairman. In his absence the Vice-President shall preside, or failing him the members present shall elect a past president as Chairman or in the absence of such a person any member of the Committee shall be eligible.

Ten members present at any meeting in addition to the Chairman of the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting shall stand adjourned and the Committee shall cause a second notice to be issued with the same requirements as the first. At the resulting meeting those members present shall be entitled to transact the business of the meeting.

6 Business

The following shall constitute special business:

1 Alteration of the Constitution and Rules of the Circle.
2 Dissolution of the Circle.
3 Any other matter which the Committee may in the notice convening the meeting state to be regarded as special business.

Every member present shall be entitled to one vote but in the event of there being an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second casting vote. Only those members present shall be entitled to vote.

In the event of a vote being taken on a resolution comprising special business, a majority of three-quarters of those voting shall be necessary for the resolution to be passed.

All other business at general meetings ("ordinary business") shall be capable of being resolved by a simple majority of those voting.

7 Accounts and Funds

The Treasurer shall prepare at the end of each financial year an income and expenditure account together with a Balance sheet, which shall be audited by the Circle's Auditor, and, after signature by the Treasurer and Auditor, be submitted for adoption at the next Annual General Meeting.

In the event of the dissolution of the Circle by resolution of the members, the Committee shall distribute any residual funds after the payment of all debts and obligations of the Circle, to one or more registered charities or to the Royal Philatelic Society, as the meeting may direct.

8 Copyright

All rights are reserved in any article, study, bulletin, journal, monograph, book, or similar published under the auspices of the Circle. No part of such a publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright holder; application for this should be addressed to the Secretary of the Circle. Such written permission must also be obtained before any part of such publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.

Permission may be given on behalf of the Committee jointly by the President and Secretary and such permission shall not unreasonably be withheld. If a member considers such permission to have been withheld unreasonably, that member shall have the right of recourse to a general meeting of members. However, if a publication is the exclusive work of a single author, that person will not be required to seek the Circle's permission to use it elsewhere.

9 Rules

A copy of these Rules shall be sent by the Secretary to any member on request. The interpretation of these Rules shall be that decided by the Committee.

West Africa Study Circle Publications Committee

As agreed in November 1996

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, whenever possible, that books are financially viable. In July 1999 the committee has the following members:

Philip Beale John Sacher Frank Walton and Editor of *Cameo* (*ex officio*)

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 any 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.

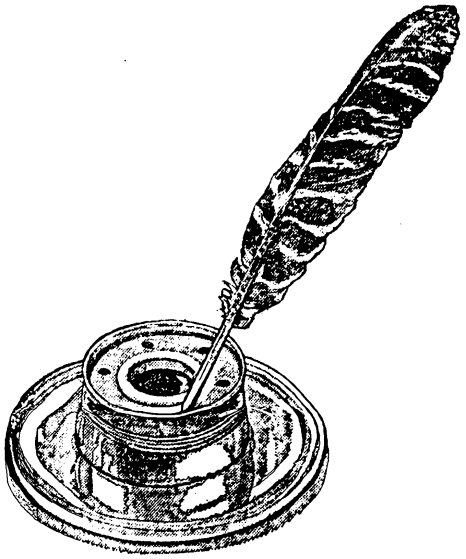
5. When the circle has recouped its costs of publication, the author can request to be paid all reasonable expenses from subsequent sales.

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 these guidelines will be decided by the Publications Committee.



Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

Frank Walton

Togo 2½d Printings

Dear Frank,

In the last *Cameo* (Vol 6 p137) Peter Newroth mentioned a slip on my part when I listed 3,000 rather than 6,000 sheets supplied for the Togo 2½d printing of 26th February 1919, in my book on the Imperium keyplates. Jeremy Martin also contacted me privately to make the same point, but explained that the sheets had been supplied in sheets of 120-set and not 60-set, hence the difference.

It is perhaps worth noting that of the seven different values supplied for this requisition the 2½d value was the only one supplied in 120-set sheets: the remainder were cut to 60-set sheets prior to despatch. I had obviously missed this when recording the printing totals.

Peter Fernbank
Banbury

✧ ✧ ✧

Currency Symbols

Dear Frank,

In response to the query in the last *Cameo* (Vol 6 p113), the correct spelling of the Gambian currency unit is *dalasi*, not *dalasy*. And why do Gibbons spell it *dalasy*? Well, it's just a mistake - one of very many that appear in Gibbons' catalogues. For instance, all four of the basic currencies of the former British West Africa territories are incorrectly represented. The correct symbols are written with upper-case letters, without a full-stop (except sometimes after the leone), before the number and usually without a gap between the symbol and the number. In every case SG uses lower-case letters, with a full-stop, after the number and with a gap. For instance:

	countries' own symbol	SG version
Gambia	D5	5 d.
Sierra Leone	Le5 or Le.5	5 l.
Ghana	C5 or c5 or C5	5 c.
Nigeria	N5 or N5or N5	5 n.

To someone like me with a passion for languages, what is of much greater interest is the fact that the denomination is also given in Mandingo : *dalasi kiling*, and in Yolof : *bena dalasi* (in Arabic script under the *one dalasi* in Roman letters).

Alan Deeds
Daventry

✧ ✧ ✧

Togo Book Query

Dear Frank,

Thank you for including details of the web site that included a picture of a Togo postman on a bicycle. I was interested to read the caption under that photograph was taken from the work *Lome, Daughter of Commerce* released by Yves Marguerat. I suspect that this will have other

interesting pictures and I wonder whether anyone has information where this book may be obtained.

John Mayne
Bridgnorth

✧ ✧ ✧

Nigeria Questions

Dear Frank,

I have some simple questions that I hope some members may be able to help me with:

1. A mint copy of Nigeria SG 344, the 10k Yankari Game Reserve issue, has an extra perf hole on the sides making the stamp 27 mm high instead of the normal 25 mm. Is this common?

2. On a cover bearing Nigeria SG 523, the 50k Modern Post Office issue, the stamp has a band of red missing making the skirt of the lady standing under the 'ER' of NIGERIA appear white rather than red. Has this been recorded?

3. I have a used copy of Nigeria SG178, the 6d Saddle Bill Stork with the red missing. This is quite striking as it makes all of the storks appear to have no beaks. Again, is it known?

4. On a pair of George V 6d definitives, there is a purple barred handstamp with the word LAGOS across the middle band. Is this fiscal or a parcel cancellation?
[Editor's reply - I know this one! It is a parcel mark, Jones Type P4, as listed in Neville's book on page 269.]

5. Another purple handstamp, but this time a double ring with BRASS across the middle, cancelling an Oil Rivers 5d value.
[Editor's reply - Another relatively straightforward answer; this is Ince & Sacher's Type P.3 parcel handstamp, as illustrated on page xiv and listed on page 178 of their handbook.]

6. A used example of Nigeria SG339 appears as though the reddish-violet colour has been missed. Are any other examples known?

Gordon Crow
Farnham

✧ ✧ ✧

Ghanapost Web Site

Dear Frank,

I have recently visited the Ghana Post Office web site at http://ghanapost.com. It includes reflections on the current postal systems in the country that made me wonder if there really were any improvements since the Gold Coast Victorian period a century ago.

I found some rather comical constructions and most interesting 'exclusions'; eg the Printed Matter rate does not include stamps.

A quote from the site: "Philately as a hobby is the art of collecting stamps without using them or posting letters"!

Peter Newroth
Vancouver Island
Canada

Editor's comment: I wonder if Peter has hit upon a new theme for this column - would anyone like to report (or make up...) any other amusing definitions of 'Philately'?

✧ ✧ ✧

Postmark Comments

Dear Mr Walton,

Regarding the articles in the July 1997 Cameo, I have the following comments on the various articles and letters:

1. The Gambia instructional marks: the 'Too Late' mark is from Gambia as mentioned in my book.

2. The Sierra Leone postmark is recorded in my book as R5, although 5 December extends its use by two months. The earliest example I have of it being damaged is 12 April 1902. No doubt this, plus the evident wear, caused R6 to be ordered on 15 November 1902.

3. The Hamilton postmark is shown as my D1. This enables the use to be extended to 1903.

4. The Ogoja is not a new discovery. This is D2 in my book recorded from 3 January 1911; the

1915 example shows the two small crosses as being dots due to over inking and / or wear.

5. Regarding the letter from John Hossack on Sierra Leone TPOs, there are three datestamps for the Freetown - Bo TPO, my D3, D5 and D6, but they are not the ones mentioned. In my opinion, time codes or asterisk should never be used to differentiate datestamps. The aster merely indicates time codes were not being used and the small aster probably came into use with a new set of datestamps on 1 January 1930. As far as I am aware, only one datestamp was used at a time and the three periods mentioned by Mr Hossack refer to the same datestamp.

E.W. Proud
Heathfield

Editor's comment: Apologies are due to Ted as he actually wrote this letter immediately after the Cameo concerned was issued. The delay in publication was purely my fault.

✧ ✧ ✧

Censorship and Kano Crash Comments

Dear Frank,

I have received my first exchange copy of *Cameo* in my new position of Honorary Editor of the *Civil Censorship Study Circle Bulletin* and can offer a couple of points for your correspondence column.

WWI Censorship (French Guinea?) - *Cameo*, January 1999, Vol 6 p145. The handstamp illustrated by Jeremy Martin was definitely applied in London. War Office documents tell us that this handstamp was used on items which passed through the Censorship but had not actually been examined. As this item was from a French colony that might have excused it from censorship, alternatively the absence of a message may have been the reason. Either way, once an item had gone into the censorship it had to be marked in some way or the Post Office was not permitted to receive it back again.

Nigerian Air Crash covers - *Cameo*, January 1999, Vol 6 pp124-5. I worked in Kano, for Barclays Bank, from 1956 until 1970. The 1956 BOAC crash site was still visible when I moved to Lagos in 1970. A small typo on p125 - the VC10 crash was 20 November 1969 not 1959. Almost everyone in Kano knew at least one passenger on that ill-fated flight.

Graham Mark
Wiveliscombe

✧ ✧ ✧

Cambridge Expedition to Sierra Leone 1958

Dear Frank,

I am a new member of the WASC with a bee in my bonnet over two covers with the above hand stamp. Does anyone else have any covers with this hand stamp? I am looking for any information, mainly, were there any covers posted to anyone other than Messrs R. C. Alcock. Ltd and, if so, the dates of posting?

I have managed to unearth with some help the report of the expedition in 1958, so I am trying to tie up posting dates with the time they were there in the different locations. Was anything sent to the sponsors, such as reports?

Some samples were sent to Kew, does anyone have any information about these?

Mick Twinn
Huntingdon

✧ ✧ ✧

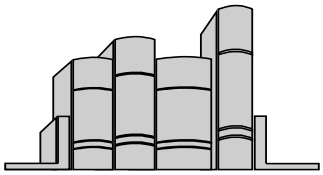
Airmail to Sierra Leone Suspended

Dear Frank,

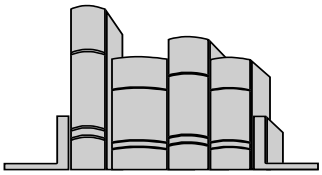
It is mentioned in the January 1999 *Cameo* that the airmail service between the UK and Freetown had been resumed. Regrettably after publication the situation in Sierra Leone took a turn for the worse and the service was again suspended. I have an envelope sent from Weymouth to Freetown on 13 January 1999 which was returned on 12 March stamped 'Service Suspended Return to Sender'.

Peter Richards
Dorchester

✧ ✧ ✧



Bookshelf



New Books

Air Mail Operations During WWII, Thomas H Boyle Jr, American Air Mail Society, Mineola NJ, 1998. 928 pages, 8.5 x 11 in (21.7 x 28.0 cm), soft cover ISBN 0-939-429-20-9. Price US $35 plus postage from Greg Schmidt, AAMS, 978 Fox Burrow Court, Neenah WI 54956-1184 USA. Available in the United Kingdom from Richard Beith, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HF at £31.95 including UK internal postage.

Tom Boyle Jr has been working on this volume for decades. The coverage of air mail events during the second world war in this 900 + page book (weight 2.2 kg!) is truly world wide. The book is divided into 21 chapters, each covering a geographical area or a particular air mail route. The volume is illustrated with flown covers and maps and contains a splendid amount of postal rate data. The chapter on Africa runs from page 681 to page 744. Boyle notes that this chapter discuses the internal and international air mail routes and operations of the non-French countries of Africa. The French Colonies can be found in chapter 11 and Egypt in chapter 13. Chapter 17 sub-headings are South Africa, British East African Colonies & Protectorates, British Central African Colonies, Angola, Belgian Congo, Ethiopia, Italian East Africa, Liberia, Libya, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Reunion, Spanish Morocco, Sudan, Canary Islands, Tangier and British West Africa.

British West Africa occupies 24 pages, with separate sections on Gambia, Nigeria and Gold Coast and Sierra Leone and includes seven tables of detailed rate information.

As a whole, the book contains 431 illustrations and 166 tables of rate information. As with any major work, there will still be things missing or interpretations to discuss, but Tom Boyle deserves the highest praise for completing this mine of information. This is a volume which will encourage others to dig deeper into their own areas of research and to put even more information into circulation for the benefit of their fellow collectors.

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

This second edition of the censorship book includes new types of handstamps and tapes that have come to light since the earlier edition was published in 1993. Very many date extensions have been added for existing types as well as new numbers for the established series. An additional significant feature is the inclusion of background censorship information. A review will appear in the next *Cameo*.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Postal Arrangements in Modern Liberia

Marc Parren

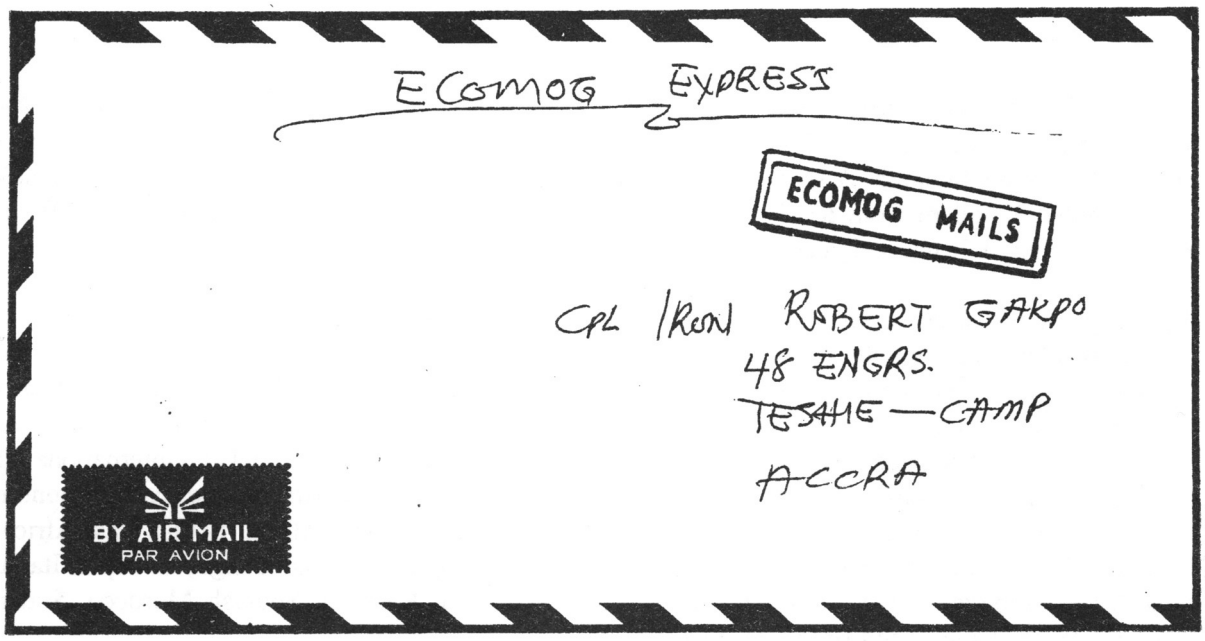


Figure 1 : ECOMOG letter from Liberia to Accra, Ghana (reduced)

Civil war and looting of the only post office of Liberia are some of the aspects of Liberia's modern history. Since the end of 1989 a bloodstained civil war between several factions has swept the country. One of the former warlords, Charles Taylor, was installed as President of Liberia in August 1997. When Taylor reached the outskirts of the capital Monrovia early in 1990, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) intervened and sent a peace-keeping force named ECOMOG (ECOWAS Monitoring Group). Since 24 August 1990 West African troops were deployed which prevented Taylor from capturing Monrovia. ECOMOG troops consisted mainly of troops from Nigeria and Ghana and smaller units from the rest of West Africa. In August 1990 the United States launched Operation Sharp Edge. Initially some 3,000 West African troops were deployed rising to 16,000 troops in 1993. Senegal deployed troops in March 1992. In the early days ECOMOG mail was cancelled by the mark ECOMOG MAILS (Fig. 1) of which two types are known so far. A smaller type measuring 41 x 5 mm and a larger type measuring 43 x 6 mm (Fig. 1a). After a couple of months letters were no longer cancelled, instead the mail was sent by mailbag to the countries of origin of the troops uncancelled. So more recent covers by troops deployed by ECOMOG in Liberia can no longer be recognized as such. The amount of mail was also reduced dramatically when troops were allowed to phone home free of charge. Since 1990 the war was at a stalemate: the government in Monrovia was backed by ECOWAS, while the different factions in the interior continued fighting against each other. The postal links with foreign countries were regularly interrupted (Fig. 2) but international postal traffic remained possible with a transfer in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

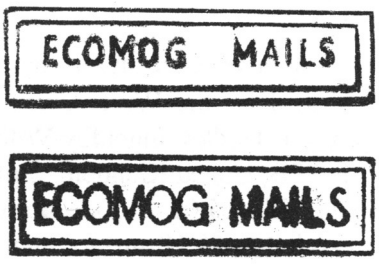


Figure 1a : Two differing ECOMOG MAILS handstamps

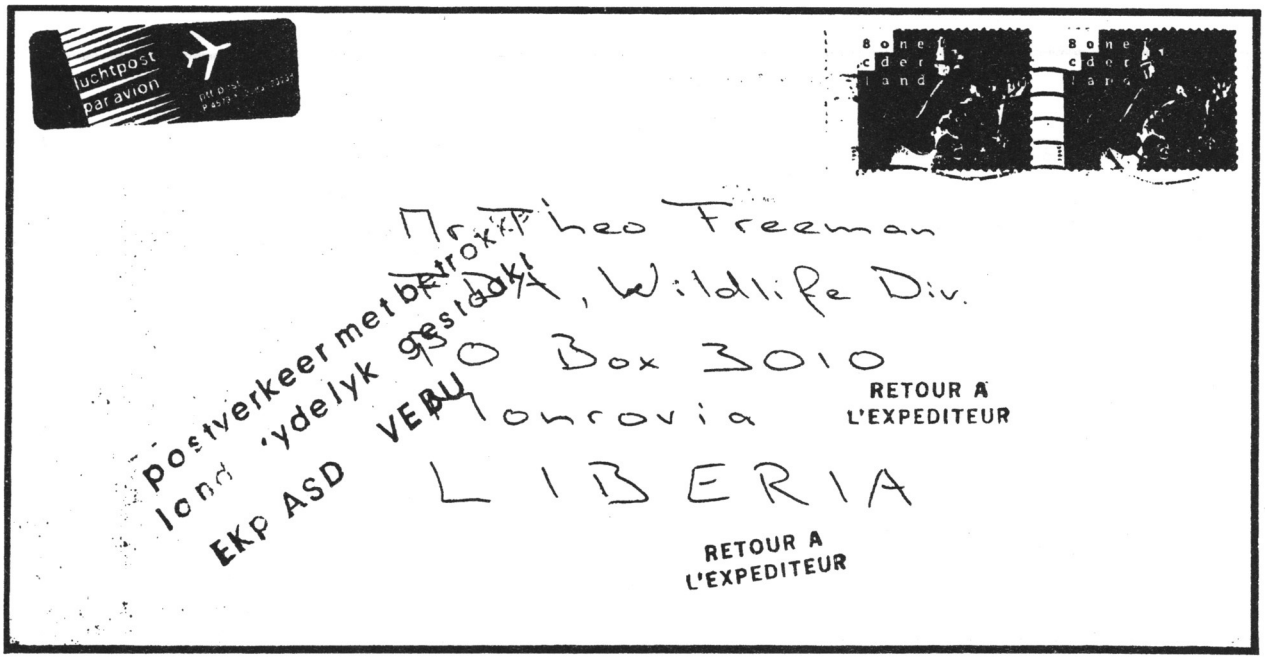


Figure 2 : Postal exchange with country concerned temporarily suspended.
Expedition sorting office Amsterdam mail (reduced)

After the Cotonou Peace Agreement signed by the Liberian parties on 25 July 1993 a small group of observers were deployed by the United Nations since September 1993 in an operation named UNOMIL (United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia). Some 22 nations contributed military personnel to UNOMIL with a strength of less than 400 military personnel. Peace negotiations held at the end of 1995 and early in 1996 seemed to lead to a peaceful transition with free elections in the entire country. However from 6 April 1996 the fat was in the fire once more and for several weeks large scale looting took place in Monrovia. The post office in Monrovia was looted too and all stamps in stock were stolen. At that moment there were no longer stamps available in the country since Liberia has only one post office, the one in Monrovia! Later that year new issues were released. In February 1998, as far as the author is aware, stamps were no longer available in Monrovia as they had run out of stock.

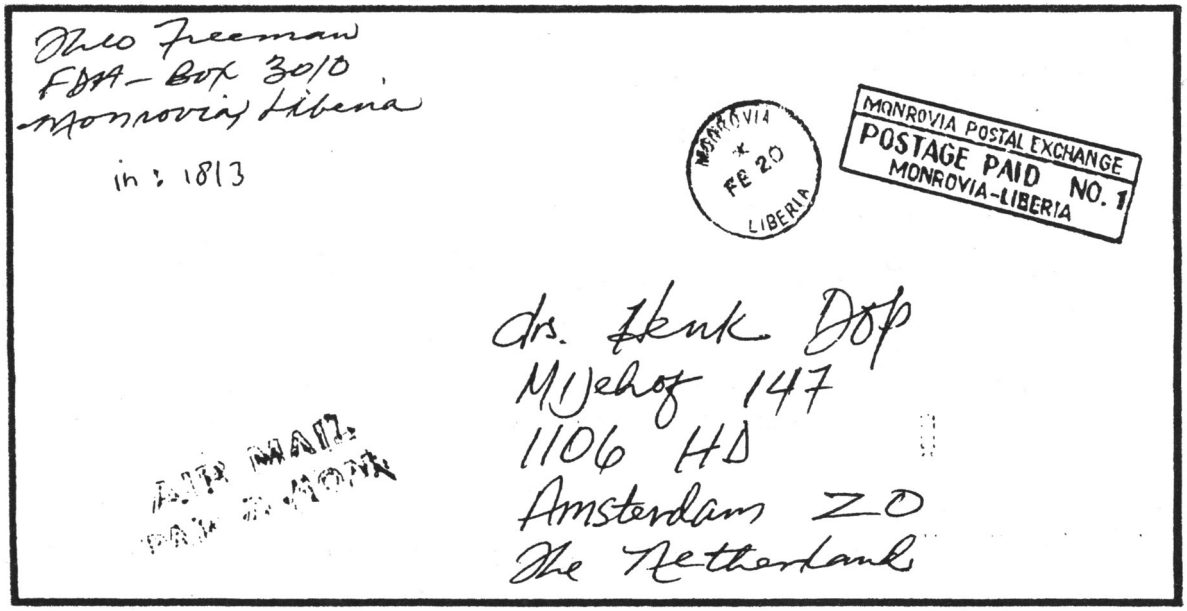


Figure 3 : 20 February Monrovia to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Postage Paid No. 1 (reduced)

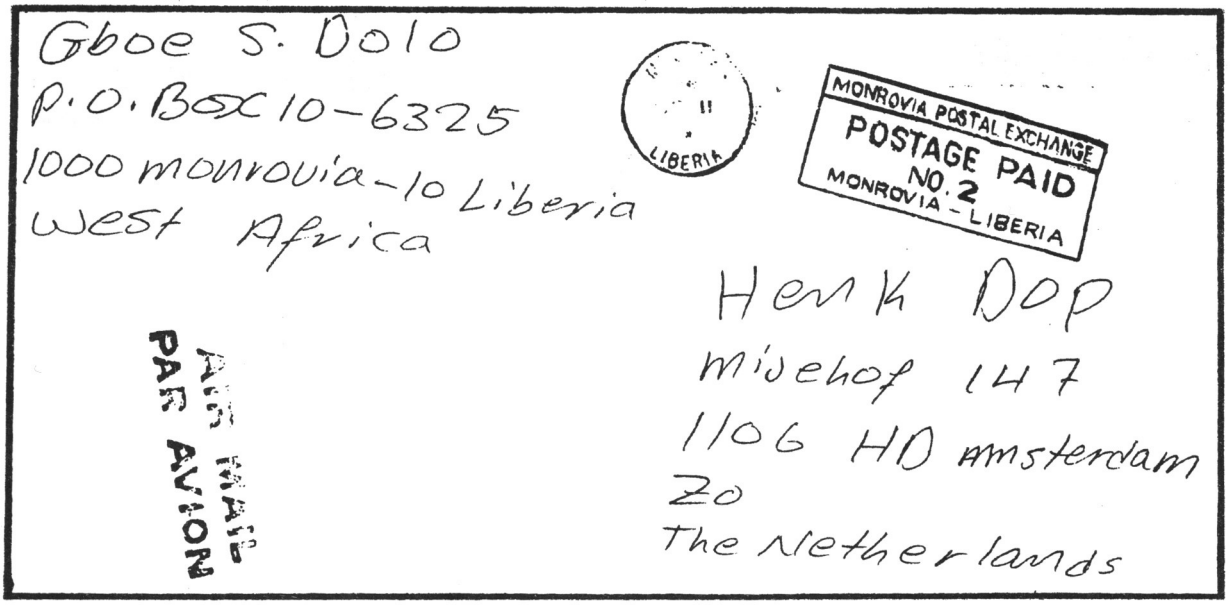


Figure 4 : 11 December Monrovia to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Postage Paid No. 2 (reduced)

Normal procedure was that letters handed over at the counter will be cancelled by a red postage paid cancellation and a datestamp without yearslugs (see Figs. 3 and 4). Also in this case two types are known so far with the number 1 and 2 each of a different format. At the time of writing in early 1999 the postal clerks in Monrovia do not accept letters franked with stamps issued before the 6 April 1996. Stamps issued afterwards are accepted but are often after a short while no longer available at the counter. In April 1996 the troop strength of ECOMOG stood at 8,000 men and troops from Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire were contributed. The latter two countries were at first opposed to ECOMOG and supported Charles Taylor in secret.

On 19 July 1997 free elections were held in Liberia, supervised by a group of international observers. The former warlord Charles Taylor won the elections. The UNOMIL mission ended the 30 September 1997. ECOMOG stayed another 6 months in Liberia to train the army and police by request of Charles Taylor.

More recently ECOMOG troops are also active in Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau and one wonders what are the postal arrangements for these troops deployed. Guinean (Conakry) and Senegalese troops, who supported the president of Guinea Bissau were to leave the country by mid-March 1999. Their departure has been linked to the arrival of some 1,450 ECOMOG troops.

As from July 1998 the United Nations deploys a limited number of unarmed military observers an operation named UNOMSIL (United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone) in which 10 nations participate. What has become of the stolen stamps is unknown, but in case you are offered a large stock of Liberian stamps be aware of the above.

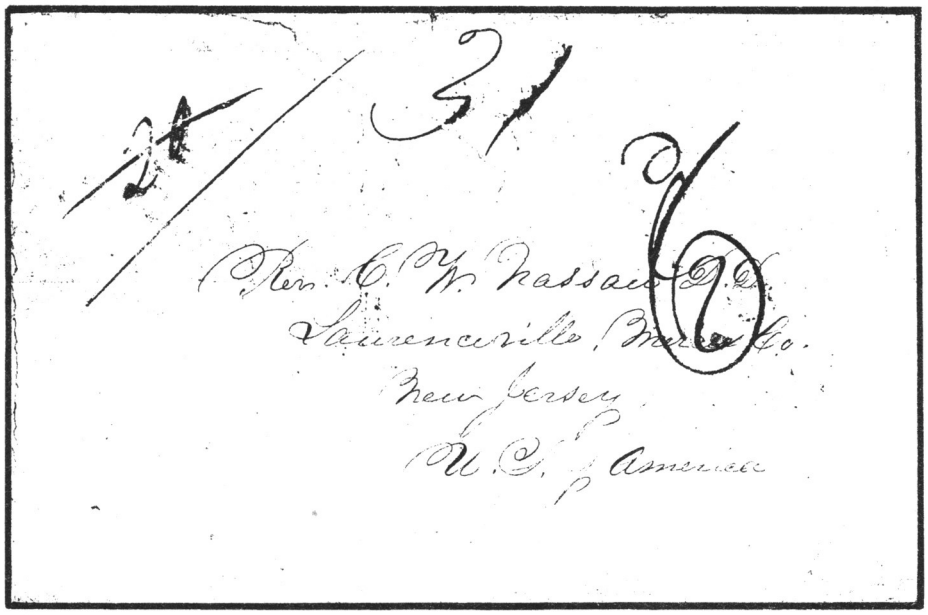
Does any member have additional information and covers about US Operation Sharp Edge, UNOMIL, UNOMSIL and ECOMOG postal arrangements in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau?

References

1. *Fifty years (1948-1998) UN Peacekeeping*. United Nations Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York.
2. http://www.iefweb.t/irin/wa/weekly/

Fernando Po to USA by *SS Lagos*, 1869

Colin Tabeart



1869 : Fernando Po to USA via Liverpool by African Steam Ship Company *SS Lagos*

The African Steam Ship Company was granted a Royal Charter in 1852. It operated the first steam contract packet mails to the west coast of Africa from 1852; the embarkation port was originally Plymouth, but this changed to Liverpool in 1858. The British & African Steam Navigation Company commenced a competitive service in 1873 and by 1873 both were carrying mail. From 1880 Elder Dempster & Co. managed these early companies.

The 6d mark reflects the charge due on arrival at Liverpool. This was deleted and converted to 20c claim on the United States, being 6d African packet plus 4d transatlantic sea postage under the 1868 Anglo-American convention, or 20c as marked on the top left of the cover. The USA authorities added 2c inland, making 22c gold, or 31c 'US Notes' added in manuscript at the top centre.

The *SS Lagos* departed Fernando Po on 29 April 1869, arriving at Liverpool on 31 May 1869. As no transatlantic steamer was in Liverpool the letter was forwarded to Southampton, via London, to catch the NDL steamer *Donau* on 1 June 1869; this arrived in New York on 11 June 1869.

Backstamps:



Liverpool
31 May 1869



London
1 June 1869



New York
11 June 1869

Extracts from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News

Peter Fernbank

Subsequent to the publication of my book on the King George V key plate issues (Ref. 1), I discovered a large battered ledger with all the articles from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* relating to each colony cut out, stuck in, and filed in colony order. Because of the way the clippings overlapped they were impossible to photocopy so I undertook the laborious task of typing them on to my PC. Much of it is high quality information, although there are the odd mistakes here and there (with the benefit of 80 years of hindsight). The illustrations are not reproduced here, but the library of the Royal Philatelic Society, London has a complete set of *Ewen's* which members of that society may access.

The index number and and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* in which the last reference to that country appeared.

Gold Coast

832 T 834 (18 Sep 1915)
The head of our New Issue Service Section has discovered a prominent variety in the printing of the new 3d on full yellow paper: a large heavy type "G" in GOLD COAST, practically double the thickness of the normal lettering. Most of the sheets we received were broken up for the last New Issue distribution before this novelty was detected and a number of our members will find they have received it.

Variety in lettering. Large type "G".
K.G., 3d purple on full yellow.

Nigeria

763 A (9 May 1913)
According to *The Colonial Journal* the following values of the new stamps have been shipped:-

½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1.

All are of the same design as the Northern Nigeria stamps. The 3d, 4d, 1/-, 5/-, 10/- are on tinted paper with white back.

763 B 770 (27 Jun 1914)
From Lagos an official correspondent informs us by last week's mail, under date of 26 May, that stock of the new 'Nigeria' series was at hand, but not at the moment issued to the public and continues:
"Evidently all the old issues of either Southern or Northern (Nigeria) are to be cleared first. A number of the kinds are now finished, but those remaining are mostly King Edward.

S. Nigeria	K.E. ½d, 1d, 2d, 2/6.
	K.G. 6d, 1/-
N. Nigeria	K.E. ½d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6.
	K.G. 1d, 3d."

770 C 812 (17 April 1915)
We learn from *The Colonial Journal* that a new supply of stamps is in course of printing, in the same design and colours as the first issue. The 3d and 4d stamps will be printed on the CA yellow; the 1/- on the CA green; the 5/- on the CA yellow; and the 10/- on the CA green paper. The first issue of these values was on the *provisional* surface-tinted paper, white back.

812 D 818 (29 May 1915)
The single and reply post card of the 1d K.G. design, has made its appearance according the *Schweizer Brief-marken Zeitung*.

Post Cards.	K.G. design.
1d	red, card chamois
1d +1d	red, card chamois.

818 E 831 (28 Aug 1915)
With regard to the new printing referred to by us in No. 812 of *E.W.S.N.*, specimen copies of the 3d and 10/- values on yellow and green dyed throughout paper are reported to have been seen by the *Schweizer Brief-marken Zeitung*.

831 F 833 (11 Sep 1915)
Specimen copies of the 4d, 1/- and 5/- Georgian issue have been seen by the *London Philatelist* printed on paper coloured throughout.

833 G 836 (2 Oct 1915)
The 3d, 4d, 1/-, 5/- and 10/- values on paper dyed throughout, were placed on sale in Lagos, on August 19th. Our bulk consignment arrived a fortnight since, and the items were included in our last New Issue distribution.
Portrait of King George. Wmk. Mult. CA chalky paper. Perf.14.

3d	purple on yellow.
4d	black and red on yellow.
1/-	black on green.
5/-	green and red on yellow.
10/-	green and red on green.

All five issues on the provisional tinted-surface papers should prove to be good, especially the 4d and 10/-, which, we believe, were printed in small numbers only. Very few of the 4d have been met postally used, and value will now rapidly appreciate.

836 H 853 (29 Jan 1916)
The 1d value has been printed from plate 3 and 4, states the *Colonial Journal*.

853 I 925 - *New Colour*. (16 Jun 1916)
We have received a small advance supply of the new printing of the Georgian 1d from Plate 3, in scarlet colour.

New Colour. From Plate 3

1d	scarlet

925 J 955 (12 Jan 1918)
The supply of the new colour 1d scarlet from Plate 3, despatched against our requisition of April last per *ss Karina*, was lost in the sunken mail. Another delivery is just to hand, but this is found to be in sheets from Plate 4. The shade of colour is identical, both being on very *thin white* paper, wmk. transparent with yellowish gum.

Nov 1917 ? Georgian Series.
Print from Plate 4. Thin paper.

1d	
scarlet.	

The above will be completed through our 10% New Issue Service, distribution No. 696, to members registered for shade varieties.

Northern Nigeria

Reports in 636, 681, 686 and 687 report the issue of the complete set, ½d to £1.

734 I 850 (8 Jan 1916)
The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* chronicles a copy of the 10/- King George with the word 'Postage' on the left in double print, also the scroll work beneath it. There are also traces of double printing in the King's Head, and some of the shading is omitted. The *Postage Stamp* refers to this in the following:

"We have examined the copies sent for comparison and the difference in appearance is very marked, but appears to be due, not to a double impression, but to a condition of the ink which did not allow its distribution to be perfect all over the plate. Some pigments separate very easily from the varnish with which they are ground up into ink and produce just such an effect as is demonstrated in this curious example."

This explanation may be correct, but it is certainly curious that the description of this variety tallies very closely with that of a similar one reported in our last number on the 1/- Fiji, the head-plate being the same for both colonies.

Sierra Leone

664 A 667 (6 July 1912)
We have received a supply of the first value of the King George set.
Portrait of King George

1d	red

Issued 1.6.12 or earlier.

667 B 677 (14 Sep 1912)
We illustrate the design of the King George issue, and also chronicle another value.

½d	green

To be issued.

677 C 685 (9 Nov 1912)
We have received a further supply of these stamps bearing the portrait of King George.

½d	green
1d	red
2d	grey
2½d	blue
4d	black and red on yellow
5d	lilac and green
6d	lilac
7d	lilac and orange
9d	lilac and black
10d	lilac and red

Issued 9.12 or earlier.

685 D 695 (18 Jan 1913)
(Report on the 3d to £5 stamps issued in new large format design).

695 E 713 (24 May 1913)
(Report on the 2/- stamp issued in new large format design).

708 F 713 (24 May 1913)
(Report on the £1, £2, £5 stamps issued in new large format design).

713 G 763 (9 May 1914)
In a consignment of stamps just received from this country the ½d is in a distinctly new shade.
Portrait of King George
½d green, new printing, *yellow-green* shade.

763 H 857 (26 Feb 1916)
The *Colonial Journal* writes that the 1d stamp has been supplied from plates 3 and 4, and the 4d adhesive from plate 3.

857 I 861 (25 Mar 1916)
Mr. Chas. Davies has sent *The Philatelic Magazine* the 1d mentioned in *E.W.S.N.* printed from plate 4. "It is in rather a paler shade than its predecessor; hardly worthy of catalogue rank, but nevertheless distinct when placed beside the former issues. It may be due to the gum, which on the older stamp is noticeably darker."

861 J 930 (21 Jul 1917)
Announcement that the ½d and 4d stamp have been printed from plate 5 is given by the *Colonial Journal.*

930 K 991 (30 Aug 1919)
Notification is made by the *Colonial Journal* that new supplies of the 2½d, 4d, 9d, 2/- and 5/- stamps are in course of preparation.

991 L 1010 *Printings from Plate 6* (17 Apr 1920)
The October edition of the *Colonial Journal* states that the new printings of the 2½d, 4d, and 9d stamps were made from Plate 6.

In January new printings of the 3d and 1/- stamps were reported as in hand.

Togo

Previous issues deal with German Togo overprints.

816 O 820 (12 Jun 1915)
Third Condominium Issue. Contemporary issues of Gold Coast overprinted

TOGO
Anglo-French
OCCUPATION

The West African mail arriving in London on Monday last brought us several most interesting entires from Togo bearing these new provisionals, postmarked LOME. TOGOGEBIET 19/5/15. We are pleased to state advice is to hand from our agents that full supplies of all values issued were at once secured for us and sent forward in packages insured per Parcels Post. At the moment of writing the registered and insured mails are somewhere in -------, and yet to be delivered in London. These are expected before the end of this week, and in that case we will be able to give full details of these new provisionals in next week's issue of *E.W.S.N.*, and all New Issue Subscribers whose accounts are in credit will receive their supplies at the earliest moment possible.

820 P 821 (19 Jun 1915)
Third Condominium Issue. Issued May 1915.
Contemporary issues of Gold Coast overprinted in black:

TOGO
Anglo-French
OCCUPATION

Considerable excitement was manifest this week when it was learnt the consignment referred to in *E.W.S.N.* No.820, had safely reached us on Thursday, 10th inst. One well-known dealer, with certain first-hand information, offered £1000 premium for the parcel at a clean sweep, and a cute speculator offered double cost but unfortunately, or otherwise, neither could be entertained, even for part, since we have to first satisfy so many New Issue Members and regular clients.

To all Subscribers who held credits at date, the 10% distributions were made up on the 12th and 14th inst., and posted as soon after as the entires could be checked off.

This 3rd provisional set, with overprint on Gold Coast issues showing portrait of His Majesty King George, undoubtedly portends to be even more popular in demand than the preceding issues, and

the overprint adopted in Accra is in a very small type, which the advice by the same mail designates as 'insignificant'. It is probably but a makeshift, pending a regular indent from London, which in ordinary course would be by Messrs. De La Rue. Certainly every indication points to this issue being but an expedient for the moment. If it were not so, the demand that will be made for supplies will be so considerable, that there would be no stamps left in Gold Coast for its own service in a very short time. Further than this, recognising that the demand will be tremendous, and that the work of overprinting can be in every sense more satisfactorily and expeditiously dealt with by Messrs De La Rue for a regular issue than locally in Accra, there is little doubt the authorities will have studied their best interests in the matter.

This setting made in Accra, is in sixty pieces, 6 x 10, and the overprint applied to each pane separately, the sheet being completed in two operations. Though every care has been taken, as shown by the evenness in the lines of setting, several prominent errors of type have occurred.

Errors.

(1) *Small type* capital "G" in TOGO. 6th stamp in 4th row.
(2) *Small type* capital "F" in FRENCH, corresponding with other letters. 1st stamp on the 5th row, also the 4th and 5th stamps on the 10th row.

These errors are exactly repeated on the 2nd pane of each sheet on all twelve denominations, ½d to £1. What the errors in the higher values, which stand to reason can be but very limited numbers, will ultimately be worth, it is impossible at the present to determine. By simple calculation or estimate, even in the intermediate values, these varieties will outclass the noted "TOG" for TOGO error which occurred in the first Anglo-French issue on German Togo stamps.

To possess the complete set of errors to the 1/- value will be of marked distinction, and to have the set to the 5/-, let alone the 10/- and £1 is beyond the possible, excepting for a very few most fortunate enthusiasts. The pieces we have will be sent to subscribers who have gained the highest positions on our New Issue list.

With the positions of the errors several select blocks can be made. Taking undivided the eight stamps from centre of sheet under the 3rd row, the piece shows error small "G" on left, and error small; "F" on right, each contained in block of four and undivided. From the foot of left pane an undivided pair, both *small* "F", can be made; or from the foot of right pane an undivided pair of *small* "F" with control, or better still contained in strip of four or block of six or eight.

The above are the important errors of type, but in the course of printing there are also several curiosities of regular occurrence. One pane of 2d had the overprint placed too much to the left, the stamp on the right side vertically thus being without "A" to ANGLO.

Varieties.

2d *Without* "A" to ANGLO.
1/- *Solid* 1st "O" to OCCUPATION
1/- *Small* 1st "O" to OCCUPATION

On the 1d. value the overprint is placed much higher. The other values to the 1/- show it over the centre, but in the £1 it is placed lower, and the word 'OCCUPATION' appears across the tablet of value.

Amongst the sheets of the 5/-, the odd block found was noticeably much paler in shade.

On the several values 2½d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 and 10/-, which are dark in colour, the overprint does not show up with prominence, and in the case of the 1/- would be passed as ordinary by anyone without a quick eye. The credit of an alert eye rather disconcerted one of our staff, who having been glued down to examining many sheets of varied colours, could for a while after see nothing else but Togo Anglo-French Occupation on whatever was handled, even to a sheet of thin interleave blotting paper - and sure enough it was. Another error.

Our order for this possible issue was placed some months ago, and at time of going to press we know of no one else in London who also secured any quantity supply, and the second lot we separately indented for in early April has not come to hand. Three values we received short of quantity ordered. The prices we quote are of necessity speculative, and these we reserve the right to cancel without notice.

It will be noted the 3d and 5/- are on the surface-tinted paper with white back. The 3d should prove

to be a good item, since the *Colonial Journal* of April notified the new printing supplied was on the dyed throughout yellow paper. The 10/- and £1 probably exist in very small quantities.

821 Q 825 (17 Jul 1915)
First part contained notes on First Condominium Issue - German Togo.

Third Condominium Issue. - The West African mail arriving in London on the 12th inst., brought us a small supply of the 3d purple on yellow paper dyed throughout. Curiously all the sheets had the 3rd stamp of bottom row of each left and right pane neatly abstracted without damage to the margin. The overprint is the same as used for the other values and was no doubt applied at the same period, the stock of the 3d *tinted* having been absorbed before the required quantity of this denomination was attained.
Georgian series. Provisional Overprint.
3d purple on yellow.

The question will be what is the 3d *tinted* variety worth. Many thousands of collectors will want to acquire and most will have to go without. The errors small "G" in TOGO and small "F" in FRENCH are certainly worth a great deal more than the quotations that have been made during the past three weeks, and those who have availed themselves of the opportunity to secure are indeed fortunate. We have noticed several lists placing the "F" variety before the "G", which is incorrect, TOGO being the first word and FRENCH the third in the lines of overprint, and the "G" is worth three times as much as the "F".

For obvious reasons, may not the 3d on dyed yellow paper with this small overprint also prove a good stamp? Speculation is rife. Will "TOGOLAND" or "GOLD COAST & TOGOLAND" be instated as the title for the territory, and appear on the next issue? The coming season will probably bring an added and still greater interest in the West African group.

825 R 826 (24 Jul 1915)
Provisionals of May 1915, overprinted on Gold Coast.
Very interesting information has come to hand. It appears the first value to receive the overprint was a stock of the ½d *pale* green, and the setting in the first stage contained other errors besides the small "G" in TOGO and small "F" in FRENCH. The following extract we quote from our correspondent's letter:

"A few weeks ago the bulk supply was delivered and has been sold, but a quantity of the halfpenny value was kept back. This balance has now come to hand in sheets like the enclosed, from which you will note the authorities have withdrawn two stamps from each pane. The stamps withdrawn may have had some unknown error in the surcharge, as the same stamps are taken from each sheet, and I can conceive of no other reason for this action on the part of the authorities. The sheets in pale colour were evidently the first printed, and show errors large "G" and 'no hyphen' (besides small 'G' and 'F'. If you will refer to other stamps of this issue, in the same position on the sheet, you will find they are corrected, and that the hyphen added shews right through the stamp, contrary to the others, where there is no indentation. So far as I am aware, there are no others in existence, save the lot I obtained and submit you, etc."

Evidently extreme misprints occurred in two positions in each pane, that is four to each sheet, and these sheets were withdrawn, but on later consideration were passed for sale after having four stamps cut out. What these misprints were we at present are unable to state, though our correspondent expects to be able to give further details later. The sheets of 116 stamps as issued show additional errors, large "G" in TOGO and 'no hyphen' between ANGLO FRENCH. These two, besides being those represented by the cutouts, were corrected in the continued printing made on the ½d deep green and other values.

It should be noted that the ½d *pale* green has plate number at the foot, whereas the ½d *deep* green has plate number at top of sheets.

Georgian Series. Provisionals on Gold Coast.
The errors in the first print on ½d pale green.
(1) Large "G" in TOGO.
(2) Small "G" in TOGO.
(3) No hyphen between ANGLO FRENCH.
(4) Small "F" in FRENCH.
(5) Undivided pair, both small "F".

Our correspondent was quick to secure all available of this *first* print. All are delivered to us excepting eight pieces he wished for personal ends. There are no more of the large "G" and 'no hyphen' errors in evidence, and the ½d that had been served to other orders was the deep green shade without any

abstraction or cut outs. The parcel came to hand by the West African mail delivered in London on the 12th inst. and though the premium asked for the holding in entirety was a considerable one, we are pleased to at once accept, and so be able to give our New Issue subscribers and clients the advantage of the unique set of errors in the 1st print complete, and which otherwise are not obtainable.

826 J 827 (31 Jul 1915)
Provisionals of May 1915, overprinted on Gold Coast.
Under date of 20th inst., Mr. S. Abbott writes as follows:-

"Togo errors, ½d, 1st print. Thanks for these, they are very interesting. The large "G" in pair, to my mind, is not so pronounced as other errors enumerated below, and which you do not chronicle. There may be more, but my glass is dim and eyes are weak.

Minor varieties:
Single stamp. C joined, thus O.
Block of four showing no hyphen. Nos. 1, 2 and 4, no bar to H, thus II, and joined C in Nos. 2, 3, 4.
Small F in block of 4. Joined Cs in here.
Small G in block of 4. Joined Cs in here; No. 2, top part of H is missing, appearing Iı .
Strip three. 3rd stamp OCO.
Pair. No bar to H on second stamp.

Mr. Abbott is rewarded in the set he secured, and we hope many of our other New Issue subscribers likewise obtained, since we purposely selected the pairs and blocks, etc., noticing that minor differences occurred in most from these certain portions in the sheets. The prices we are at present quoting for these errors, No.1 to No.5, or complete set, are certainly cheap. One of the greatest specialists in errors, on learning the number of the 'no hyphen' variety, stated that this alone must be worth 10/-. He purchased several of the full sheets of 116 stamps as issued at 35/-, and we have decided to offer twenty more to any other clients wishing to at once secure.

827 K 830 (21 Aug 1915)
Provisionals of May 1915, overprinted on Gold Coast.
The West African mail received this week, brought part delivery of our second requisition, which, being eight weeks overdue, we had almost despaired of receiving. This fortunately contained a good supply of the 3d on the full yellow paper, which enables us to include to most of our New Issue subscribers in distribution sent out this week, and with further supply advised we hope to complete to all by the next. In this consignment the sheets of the various values received were in a very mutilated state, all the errors having been cut out by the Postal Authorities in Accra, before placing on sale, with the statement that these have been destroyed. We naturally regret to be so deprived, but have the satisfaction of knowing that the items we recently supplied to a number of clients holding the higher positions on our list, must now be considered of great rarity and importance. Though an entirely new issue at the time of despatch of mail was not in evidence nor any information forthcoming owing to several principal Officials being on leave during the quiet season, such issue might occur at any moment. With this latest information the general interest will become eager in anticipating the latest deliveries that will come to hand in the early autumn when business on the West Coast recommences in full swing.

The delivery this week of mails from Lome brought us a number of interesting letters and packages, posted and dated between 20 June and 26 July. Our agent, since previous despatch, has been fortunate in finding further values, viz, the 1d, 2d, and 2½d, in the first print, which he sends to us.

ERRORS in the 1st Print.

1d	Large "G" in TOGO.
2d	Large "G" in TOGO.
2½d	Large "G" in TOGO.
1d	No 'hyphen' between ANGLO FRENCH.
2d	No 'hyphen' between, but placed double above words.
2d	Double 'hyphen', one placed to top and 2nd above words.
2½d	'No hyphen' between, but placed ½ to 1 mm beneath words.

Probably a wrong fount in type accounts for these extraordinary 'hyphen' varieties.

The sheets from which these were obtained, had the errors small "F" abstracted by the Authorities before delivery.

The replaced 'hyphen' in the second print is double thickness of normal, deeply impressed, and found on all denominations.

The 3d tinted was a short issue quickly exhausted,

and with the Official abstraction of most of the misprints in the 3d yellow, the errors in the two prints of this value will now be amongst the rarest. The few pieces we recently sold of the error small "F" showing in unsevered pair, we should be pleased to re-purchase at a handsome profit.

Mr. H.J.Harman, of Cheltenham, under date of 17th inst., kindly advises also of the 1d, 2d, and 2½d 'hyphen' varieties, and further states he possesses the 6d with TOGO placed over GOLD COAST. This we have only hitherto seen in the ½d value.

A little lot of very interesting entires, showing the recent provisionals, in superb postally used condition, with the German registration labels that had been originally supplied for the several offices, have been sent us, and these we offer in the Latest Arrival column of this number.

830 L 841 (6 Nov 1915)
We have had submitted to us from the West Coast a few postcards of this late German colony with the French overprint 'Occupation franco-anglaise' 5 centimes in three lines across the 5 pf stamp. The single card has the words 'Postcard - Carte Postale' in one line placed above the German heading 'Postkarte', and the reply card has 'Postcard Carte Postale' in two lines substituting the German inscription with a rule line over the words 'Deutsche-Reichpost'. The return half has the additional overprint 'Response' above the German word. These are all obliterated with the Anecho Togo postmark dated Oct 8/15. The price at which these are offered to us is too terrific, but possibly the quotation may be an error in figure, and we must write and ascertain before quoting through our list.

Mr. F.J. Melville reports the 10 centimes on the 10 pf and also postcards with the overprint 'Anglo French Occupation' and British currency Halfpenny and One Penny, in single and reply cards.

Postcards. Overprint in three lines.
'Anglo French Occupation'
Halfpenny on 5pf green, single and reply card.
One Penny on 10pf carmine, ditto.

'Occupation franco-anglaise'
5 centimes on 5pf green, single and reply cards.
10 centimes on 10pf carmine, ditto.

A further little lot of interesting entires, bearing the Togo on Gold Coast provisionals, received by recent mails, has been sent to us. All have been stamped - 'Passed by Censor at Lome (Togo)' in three lines, and show also a plain blue numbered Registered Label overstamped in violet, Lome (Togo). Amongst these we find several with a new postmark designed in double circle, the words LOME TOGO widely spaced between, appear in the upper half of the larger, and date placed in the lower half of inner circle. The new obliteration is rather larger than the LOME TOGOGEBEIT stamp and possibly is to take the place of it, though we have separate entires showing the same date for each.

The late German red registration Labels of Agu (Togo), *two words*, and Agu, *one word,* overstamped Lome (Togo), as received on the entires we listed a few weeks since, appear to have been very limited and now amongst the rarities in entires.

841 M 851 (15 Jan 1916)
Further printings have been made on Gold Coast Issues with the type as originally used for the overprint in May 1915, except that the *small* "F" variety , joined pairs, on the 4th and 5th stamp of bottom row, has been corrected. We are indebted to Mr. W.C. Taylor, of Messrs Taylor Bros., Liverpool, for first sight of this correction on the 3d, 2/- and 5/- values. These were in half sheets, the right side panes. Though this particular correction has been made, it is interesting the sheets or panes are still only sold with 'cut outs'. The recent emendation, as by report, which has been re-quoted in several directions, to the effect that sheets are now sold intact, is to say the least a mishandling of actual fact. We have for some time had an order placed for intact sheets, which cannot yet be supplied.

The 5th stamp of 1st row, position of 'hyphen' variety, and the 1st of 5th row, position of *small "*F" single are now cut out in the latest printings.

The expected change to a more prominent type of overprint has not yet come about, probably owing to want of suitable type at Accra.

It is stated the 2/6 value is not at present obtainable.

851 N 864 (15 Apr 1916)
The *Colonial Journal* advises the following:

"Gold Coast stamps as having been overprinted in black in similar type to the local surcharge: 1d from plate 1 and the ½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £1 {20/-} stamps printed from plate No.5." The overprint of this latest supply having been made in London, by Messrs De La Rue will doubtless be more prominent type than the issue supplied from Accra. We have already an order standing with our agents, and as soon as the supply of this latest provisional issue is at hand, the sets will be sent out to our New Issue clients who hold subscription in credit.

864 N 866 (29 Apr 1916)
April 1916, New Provisional Issue. London Overprint.
Our consignment of the new issue arrived in London on Tuesday last, the 25th inst, having been despatched from the West Coast on the 4th inst.

At first sight the new overprint appears a near imitation to the type set up and printed at Accra, in May 1915. In the new type the font of lettering is thicker and the two lines 'Anglo-French' and 'Occupation' each measure ½ mm. longer than the first local issue. The values ½d to the £1 {20/-}, except the 1d, are the new printings from plate 5, and the 1d plate 1, but in sheets of 240, in four panes of 60. There is also a noticeable difference in the shades of colour, and the new issue has thin white gum to the stamps instead of thick yellowish. On the ½d, 1d, 2d, and 2½d values, the overprint shows heavily through to the back, these being on ordinary unsurfaced paper.

So far we have not detected any errors or varieties in this De La Rue overprint, which has been very evenly printed, except in the case of the 1d, and sheets of this value show the first stamp on 3rd row of each right hand pane with variety narrow "O" in Occupation.

April 1916 New Provisional Issue.
Stamps of the Gold Coast overprinted in London.

½d	blue-green	plate	5
1d	pale red	"	1
2d	deep slate	"	5
2½d	deep blue	"	5
3d	deep purple on bright yellow	"	5
6d	purple and bright purple	"	5
1/-	intense black on yellow-green	"	5
2/-	bright purple and ultramarine on blue	"	5
2/6	black and bright red on blue	"	5
5/-	bright green and bright red on yellow	"	5
10/-	bright green and carmine on green	"	5
£1 {20/-}	plum and black on red	"	5

Complete distribution of these latest novelties has been made this week to all our New Issue subscribers who have held their deposit subscriptions in credit.

Further interesting developments may possibly quickly eventuate. The latest reports are to the effect that the Cameroons, excepting a narrow strip of territory adjacent to Nigeria, is now taken over and administered by the French authorities, and that Togoland will likely be controlled by the British. It is stated that the latest French issue of certain values for the Cameroons has been seen without the words 'Anglais', and it is presumed that an issue for Togoland may suddenly appear without the word 'French', or altered.

866 O 869 (20 May 1916)
1915, Provisional Error
One of the hitherto missing varieties of the 'cut out' errors in the second printing we are now able to chronicle. We have fortunately just secured 14 copies of the 3d *no hyphen after* "ANGLO". We are told these are all that were found and abstracted just in singles with top margin, since the other sheets showed No. 5 of top row now already missing. It is evident a few of the sheets were passed to circulation before the error was detected and the stock at Accra officially overhauled when the 'cut outs' were made. As the 'cut outs' were destroyed, the very few of this value that escaped must be very rare.

1915. Provisional Issue. On Gold Coast. ERROR in the 2nd printing. No hyphen after "ANGLO".

3d	purple on yellow

869 P 904 (20 Jan 1920)
The London Philatelist has received copies of the 5c stamp of Dahomey (1913) overprinted

TOGO
Occupation
Franco
Anglais

in black. The remainder of the 1913 set 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 75c, 1f and 5f have similar overprint.

904 Q 948 (24 Nov 1917)
J.B. McAlister, Esq, recently kindly submitted specimens of the 1d, drawing our attention to a type variety which does not appear to have been previously noted. We have since made comparison and find that in one of the local overprintings of the ½d and 1d values the "A" in 'OCCUPATION', in the 5th stamp of last row of panes, which is also the second stamp in the undivided pairs with small "F", the font of letter is smaller.

May 1915. Local Provisional Issue.
Variety. Small "F" also small "A" in OCCUPATION.
½d green
1d rose

948 R 988 (19 Jul 1919) - *New Shade*
Towards the end of March, 1918, we received a supply of the ½d and 1d values of another London printing showing distinctive differences in shades.

The ½d was in yellow-green, printed from Plate 5 on thin paper with yellow gum, wmk. transparent, the overprint being much thicker and heavier in appearance.

The 1d was in a pale vermilion shade printed from Plate 1. This was also on thin paper, but with white gum, wmk. transparent, the overprint being slightly heavier than the previous issue, more noticeably in the word TOGO.

Both turned out to be intermediate supplies shipped out to the colony at a difficult period during the submarine menace, and in case of the 1d especially the quantity was small. Though we had hoped to receive more, but did not, we fortunately received number sufficient to cover members of our New Issue service to whom we supplied these two particular shades through Distribution No. 698 at the nominal 10% on face value.

Supplies from a later printing came to hand on 26 November 1918. These also showed difference in shade.

The ½d in *deep blue-green* from Plate 5, and the 1d in deep rose from Plate 1, both on a much thicker paper with thin white gum, wmk. opaque, the overprint being thinner and clearly printed without any heaviness in appearance. These two further shades were dealt with through Distribution No. 703.

Feb 1918. London printed. New Shades
Thin paper. Thick Overprint.

½d	yellow green	Plate 5
1d	pale vermilion	Plate 1

Oct 1918. Thick Paper. Thin Overprint.

½d	deep blue-green	Plate 5
1d	deep rose	Plate 1.

The recent edition of the *Colonial Journal* announced that a supply of the 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 and 5/- stamps had been printed from the new Plate 6.

988 S 1010 (17 Apr 1920)
New Printings, Shades, etc.
Stocks of a later 2nd printing, from Plate 5, of the 2d, 2½d, 3d and 1/- stamps appeared on sale in October 1918. Of this issue the 2d and 2½d were printed on the temporary make of *bluish-grey* thick paper, watermark opaque, and all four values show differences from the first London, 1916, Plate 5, printings, and the overprinting is much sharper and finer in impression.

The 1916 2d and 2½d printings of Plate 5 were on thin paper, the watermark showing transparently, and the overprint thick and heavy.
The 2d of 1916, it is advisable to revise as deep grey to draw distinction with the second Plate 5 print, of 1918, in the deeper *slate* grey colour on bluish-grey paper.

The 2½d though a near match is not quite so deep in colour, and may be named *dull blue*, the chief difference as previously stated being the bluish-grey thick paper.

The 3d is too close a match to classify separately in the Georgian catalogue. The colour is slightly

deeper and the watermark shows transparently instead of opaque as in the 1916 issue, the chief difference being that the overprint is sharper and finer in impression.

The 1/- is deeper, the most striking difference being that this issue has a pale green back.

As we only received a small supply at the time, we do not propose to deal with these shade or paper varieties through New Issue Service distribution but will supply to order as may be required.

October 1918. New Shades, etc.
2nd Print from Plate 5.

2d slate on bluish-grey.
2½d dull blue on bluish-grey.
1/- black on green, with pale yellow-green back.

Printings from Plate 6. - Besides the 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/- stamps printed from Plate 6 announced in the *Colonial Journal* of April 1919, the October edition reported the 10/- value, and also further new supplies of the ½d, 2½d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6 and ½d postcards, as in course of printing. The January 1920 edition advised that the ½d and 10/- values printed from Plate 6 had been supplied.

Reference

1. Fernbank P.E., *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design*, WASC, Banbury 1997

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Tiko Registration Handstamp - Correction

Bob Maddocks

My article in the last Cameo (Ref. 1) unfortunately has a small mistake in it relating to the types of Tiko registration handstamps. The illustration I used in Fig. 3 on page 143 does not, as it ought to, directly correspond with that shown on Fig. 2 on the previous page; this being the REGISTERED TIKO CAMEROONS UUKT datestamp used in 1962. As Marty Bratzel has kindly pointed out, with reference to our handbook (Ref. 2), two similar such datestamps have been recorded but with certain small differences. Both were in concurrent use in the last days of the British Administration and beyond. They are listed in the handbook as Type numbers 129 and 130. The cancel under discussion in my article is Type 130 (Fig. 2) thus the one illustrated in Fig. 3 should also be Type 130 and not Type 129 as illustrated.

To rectify the situation, the latter illustration should be replaced with this later dated cancel of 10 SP for 10 September 1963. It appears as a transit backstamp on a registered cover from Buea to Ireland and, being alongside the newly introduced French style datestamp BUEA / CAMEROUN * 6 - 9 / 1963, the year date of the Tiko oval is confirmed. Moreover, it clearly shows that the letters U.U.K.T. had not been excised from Type 130 until after the British had withdrawn.

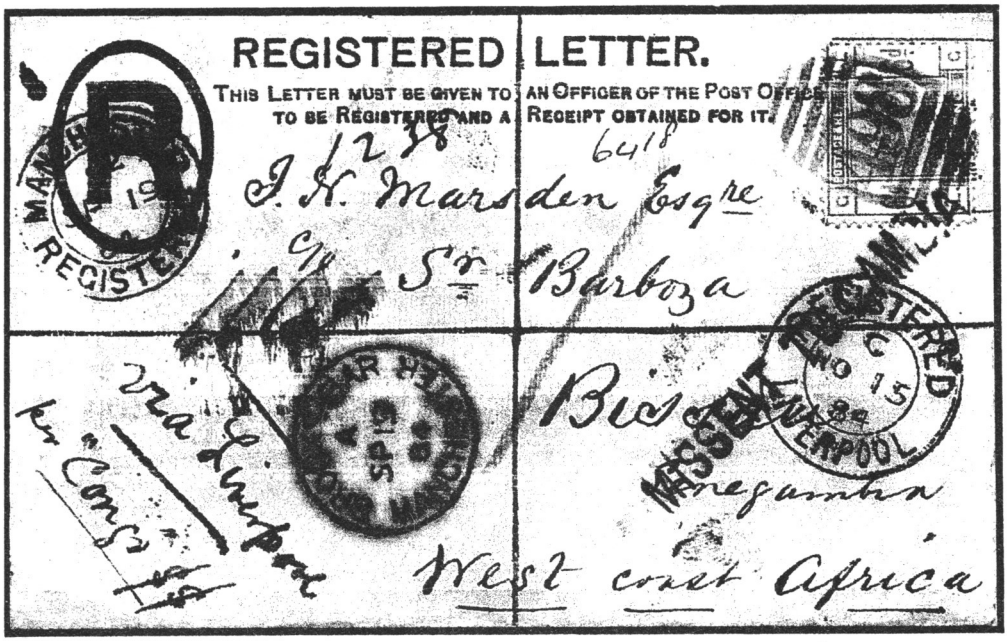


References

1. Bob Maddocks, "Posted Out of Course at Bamenda, Cameroon 1962", *Cameo*, Volume 6 pp142-3, WASC, January 1999
2. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB Canada 1994

New Missent to Gambia Handstamp

Stewart Duncan



19 September 1884 - Manchester to Bissau, Portuguese Guinea via Gambia

This 2d Great Britain registered envelope was intended to be sent to Bissau in Portuguese Guinea, but was inadvertently addressed to Bissau, Senegambia, West Coast of Africa. It was posted in Manchester, England on 19 September 1884 and has backstamps of an oval REGISTERED / LIVERPOOL (20 September 1884) and RECEIVED / GAMBIA (3 or 31 October 1884). On the front is a previously unrecorded MISSENT TO GAMBIA straight-line handstamp measuring 56 x 6 mm and a double-ring REGISTERED / LIVERPOOL mark dated 15 November 1884.

Andrew (Ref. 1) lists, but does not illustrate, two MISSENT TO GAMBIA instructional marks and gives measurements of 52 x 4½ mm. These handstamps were sent out to the colony on 9 September 1896.

MISSENT TO GAMBIA
MISSENT TO GAMBIA

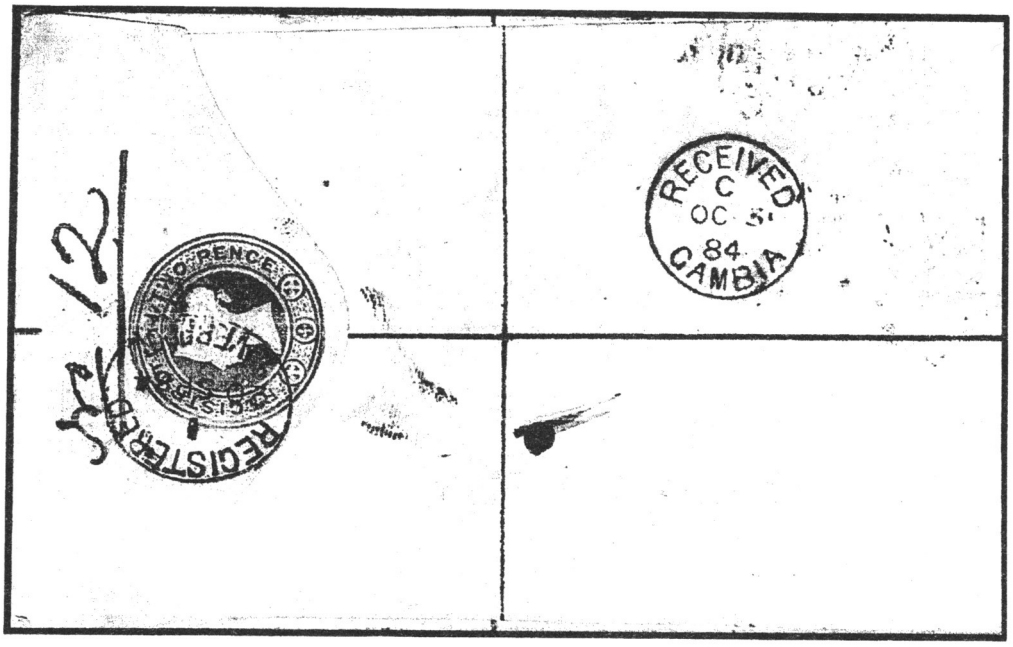
MISSENT TO GAMBIA handstamps taken from the Post Office Impression Books

The West Africa Study Circle's extracts from the Post Office impression books (Ref. 2) do illustrate these later marks, as does Proud (Ref. 3).

Clearly, as this cover predates the previously recorded marks by twelve years, it represents a new discovery.

A number of other interesting points arise:

1. It received a GB 6d adhesive (SG 194) to cover the postage, although from 1880 the UPU rate to Africa was 4d and 6d to other countries. Was Portuguese Guinea not in the UPU at this time?
   [Editor's note : according to Bendon (Ref. 4), Portuguese Colonies joined the UPU on 1 July 1877.]



Reverse of envelope

2. It was posted at Brooks-Bar Manchester. Did this office also apply the Manchester registered acceptance mark - and where was the Manchester 498 obliterator applied?

3. On arrival in Gambia a Received / Gambia code C handstamp was applied. This is Andrew Type 12C (Ref. 5) but measuring 21 not 20 mm, which corresponds with Proud's Type D30 (Ref. 6).

4. The *No. 12* manuscript marking in red on the reverse would probably have been applied in the Gambia to denote the number on the letter bill of the forwarded letter. Since *via Liverpool / per "Congo" $$* is written in the same ink, was this an instruction applied by the Colony post office?

Unfortunately Proud's table of mail sailings only start in 1892, so can anyone confirm that the Congo sailed for Liverpool during October 1884 and arrived 15 November 1884.

References

1. Andrew J.O. (Ed), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, p142, Christie's Robson Lowe with the West Africa Study Circle, 1985
2. Beale P.O. and Martin J.J.. *The Post Office Impression Books*, p7, BWASC 1981
3. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of the Gambia*, p222, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995
4. Bendon J., *UPU Specimen Stamps*, p259, James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus, 1988
5. Andrew J.O. (Ed), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, p127, Christie's Robson Lowe with the West Africa Study Circle, 1985
6. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of the Gambia*, p213, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995

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Gambia Varieties on Self Government Overprint and Bathurst 150th Anniversary Issues

Stewart Duncan

Self Government Overprint

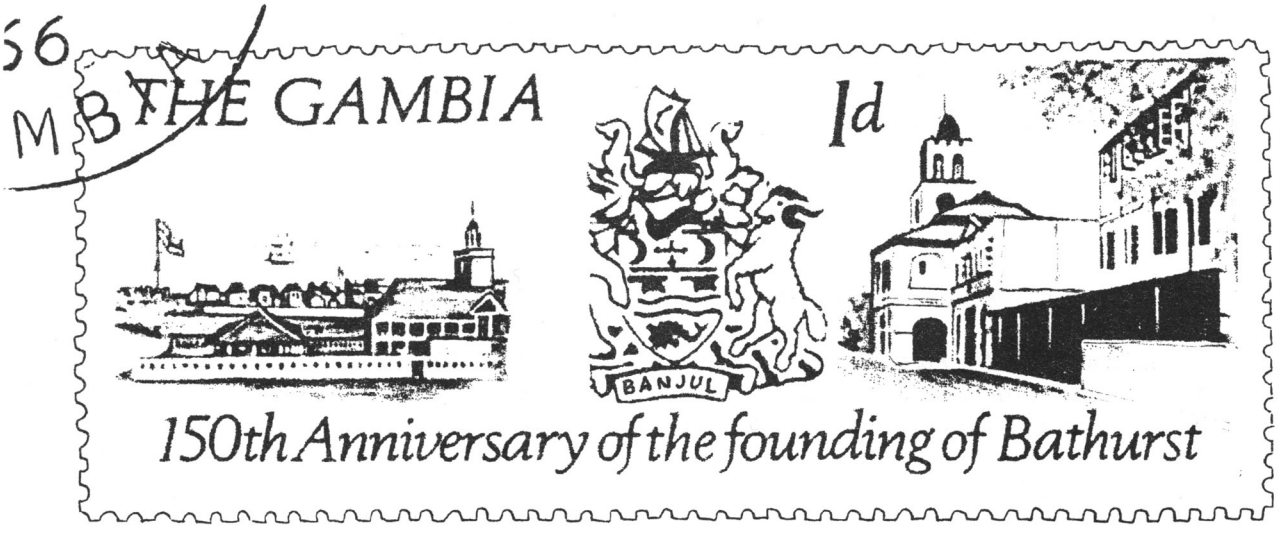
I purchased a large lot of the above illustrated first day covers used at St Mary in the hope that I might find a double overprint on the 1s value of the 1963 issue. Unfortunately no, but thanks to Philip Beale for sending me a complete sheet of the ½d value, in a format of 6 x 10, I am able to record that stamp 2 / 6 has a dropped T as the last letter in the overprint **SELF GOVERNMENT / 1963**. This variety occurs on all values, presumably in the same position.

Because the overprint appears thicker on the ½d value compared with the others, I have been unable to ascertain the position of the following further varieties:

Variety	½d	3d	1s	1s 3d
Broken tail to **G**	-	5	1	2
Broken left leg of **N**	-	1	1	1
Double **SE**	-	-	1	-
Broken **S**	-	-	1	-

The number in the table represents the number of examples found in a sample of 154 stamps of each value. Does anyone have complete sheets of the other values to compare?

150th Anniversary of the founding of Bathurst



This example of the 1d value shows the elephant almost completely missing from the coat of arms. Of the 83 sets of stamps examined, nine 1d stamps had an identical variety. Given that these stamps were also printed in a 6 x 10 sheet format, it is possible that only one column of one sheet was affected. Reports of any other examples would be welcomed.

West Africa Royal Navy Shore Establishments

John Daynes

The following details have been extracted from *Shore Establishments of the RN* by Lt. Cdr. Warlow.

Ascension	*Ascension*	Ascension island run as ship from 1816. Transferred to Colonial Office 1 November 1922 when RM garrison left.
	Independencia	Coal Hulk (ex slaver) purchased 1843, coal hulk renamed *Attention* in 1846 and sold in 1847.
	Maeander	Coast guard / store ship in 1862; wrecked July 1870.
	Tortoise	Store ship (ex *Sir Edward Hughes*) 1849 to October 1859.
	W/T station	closed 21 July 1945.
Gambia	*Dumana*	Depot ship at Bathurst for Sunderland aircraft between September and November 1940, approximately.
	Melampus	Bathurst base, March 1942 to 30 June 1945. *Melampus II* was at Dakar, Senegal between 1943 and 1945.
Gold Coast	*Leonidas*	Takoradi base 26 January 1942 to 20 July 1945.
	Wara	Komenda, Takoradi RNAS 1 October 1942 to 16 December 1943.
Nigeria	*Anansa*	Nigerian naval base, Calabar 1966 to 1978.
	Asako	Nigerian naval base, Port Harcourt 1975 to 1978.
	Astaea	Lagos base, November 1941 to 8 August 1945.
	Beecroft	Nigerian naval base, Apapa 1960 to 1978.
	Munshi	Lagos accommodation ship. Train ferry steamer taken up as depot ship for trawlers and mine sweepers, Lagos 1941. Not needed January 1942.
	Quorra	Nigerian naval base, Apapa 1989.
Sierra Leone	*Afrikander V*	Freetown base October 1939 to 15 March 1940 when transferred to *HMS Edinburgh Castle*. Afrikander I - IV were in South Africa.
	Alca	Freetown 1942, then home waters.
	Edinburgh Castle	Freetown base 15 March 1940 to 15 May 1944.
	Spurwing	Hastings RNAS (from RAF) 22 March 1943 to 31 December 1944.

Gold Coast King George V 1d Red Printings

Peter Fernbank

The last *Cameo* (Ref. 1) listed the quantities printed of the Gold Coast 1d value issued between 1913 and 1920. A number of points were raised concerning the sheet size, sheet number positioning and the numerical value of the sheet number, which I feel require clarification. In addition I believe there are major amendments required to the sheet totals.

It was believed that for all printings the sheets of 240 printed were guillotined into 120-set sheets before being sent out to the colony. Fortunately I have a photocopy of the relevant entry in De La Rue's *Colonial Stamps* book concerning the first printing of the 1d value in 1913 which sheds further light on this question. A note in the left-hand margin states *1d stamps sent out in sheets 120 set & charge 4d per ream 240 set for cutting*. However, further down the page another note was made:- *Mr Barrow says send out 240 set in future. July 2nd 1913*. Mr Barrow was the Crown Agents Chief Inspector, resident within the De La Rue printing works. It therefore appears that only the first printing was despatched as 120-set sheets: all the remaining printings were supplied in uncut 240-set sheets. Sheets from the lower pair of panes bearing a sheet number on the upper margin are thus almost certainly from the 1913 printing.

Regarding the quantities printed of the 1d, the figures quoted on my photocopy differ considerably from those quoted in the *Cameo* article for the 1913 printing. This requisition (Reqn. 10/13) was received by De La Rue on 20 February 1913, and the *Colonial Stamps* book records the quantities that were despatched. Unfortunately the film of the relevant pages has cropped off the month part of the date, leaving only the day number. Peter Newroth has a copy of the De La Rue Day Book which shows the despatch dates. Hence we can confidently conclude:

Date Packed	Date Despatched	Sheets of 120
9 [June] 1913	11 June 1913	6,000
18 [June] 1913	19 June 1913	12,000
28 [June] 1913	2 July 1913	22,562

A total of 40,562 sheets of 120 were thus supplied for this printing. The quantities listed for each batch are precisely four times those quoted in *Cameo*.

It should be noted that the three separate quantities listed for this requisition were not three separate printings; a single printing only of 40,562 sheets was made, packed in three separate batches. This is significant when assessing sheet numbers. For this requisition the sheets would have been numbered from 1 up to 40,562. The sheet number quoted in the *Cameo* article "27884" must be from this printing, since no other printing contained as many sheets. It is possible, although I consider unlikely, that each of the despatches could have been numbered from sheet 1; such a scenario does not explain the high sheet numbers reported.

I have three further photocopies of other requisitions for the period to 1920, and in each case the quantities are exactly double those quoted in the article (but note that they were all 240-set sheets). I strongly suspect that this will be found to be the case for all the December 1914 to August 1920 printings quoted. Perhaps others can confirm this.

Reference

1. Frank Walton, "Gold Coast King George V 1d Red Printings", *Cameo*, Volume 6 p135, WASC, January 1999

Gold Coast to South Africa Censorship

Mike Roberts

A complete correspondence of 24 letters from a man in the Gold Coast to his wife in South Africa over a period of six months provides an opportunity to compare the relative use of the various numbers of the hexagonal civil censor Type 1 handstamp.

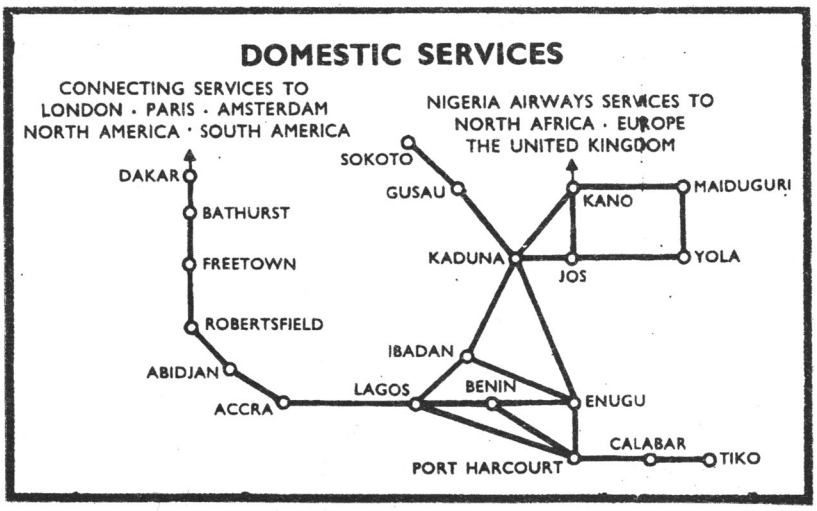
Day	Date	Censor	Day	Date	Censor
Monday	04 Nov 1940	7	Friday	07 Feb 1941	7
Thursday	14 Nov 1940	8	Monday	17 Feb 1941	7
Friday	15 Nov 1940	7	Monday	24 Feb 1941	7
Thursday	21 Nov 1940	8	Monday	24 Mar 1941	8
Thursday	28 Nov 1940	6	Monday	31 Mar 1941	7
Thursday	05 Dec 1940	7	Tuesday	08 Apr 1941	5
Friday	20 Dec 1940	8	Monday	14 Apr 1941	8
Monday	30 Dec 1940	None	Monday	21 Apr 1941	7
Friday	10 Jan 1941	7	Monday	28 Apr 1941	7
Tuesday	14 Jan 1941	8	Monday	05 May 1941	8
Friday	24 Jan 1941	8	Friday	09 May 1941	7
Friday	31 Jan 1941	7	Tuesday	13 May 1941	7

In this moderate sample there are 13 number 7s, eight number 8s and one each for numbers 5 and 6. One letter escaped censorship, but this was over the New Year festive season.

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Nigerian Airways Internal Routes

Jeremy Martin



The above schematic map is reproduced from a pamphlet called *Nigeria Airways* which was probably designed to provide passengers with in-flight information in the early 1960s. No postal links are evident, although it does indicate the infrastructure that was available to the authorities.

The Gold Coast Regiment in German East Africa

Regis Hoffman

[Editor's Note : Reproduced with permission from FPHS Newsletter (Ref. 6)]

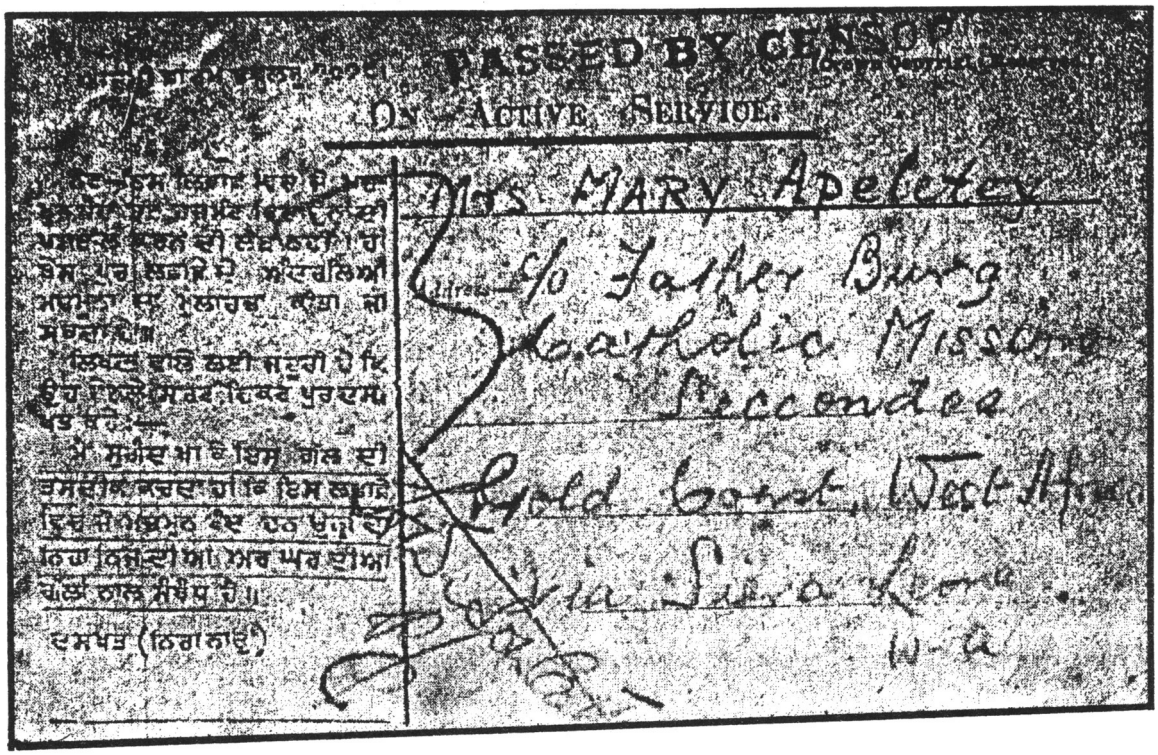


Figure 1 : Cover most likely from a member of the Gold Coast Expeditionary Force in German East Africa.

The Allied conquest of German East Africa during the First World War involved troops from many nations, primarily India, South Africa, the Belgian Congo, and Nyasaland. However, smaller contingents of troops from other nations were also represented. The West African countries of Nigeria and the Gold Coast contributed small levels of troops, after their efforts in defeating German forces in the other Africa territories of Togo and Cameroun (Ref. 1).

The Gold Coast Regiment sent to East Africa (also called the Gold Coast Expeditionary Force) consisted of four Double Companies ("A", "B", "G", and "I") with a Pioneer Company, a Battery of two 2.95 guns, 12 machine guns and a number of African carriers. The troop strength was 36 British officers, 15 British non-commissioned officers, 11 native clerks, 980 native rank and file, 177 specially trained carriers attached to the battery and to the machine guns, 1 storeman, 204 other carriers and 4 officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, for a total of 1428 men. It was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel R.A. de B. Rose, D.S.O. (Ref. 2). The Gold Coast Regiment left the port of Sekondi, Gold Coast on 6 July 1916, calling at Cape Town and Durban South Africa, before arriving in Mombasa, Kenya on 26 July 1916. In middle November 1916, the unit arrived in Kisiwani, German East Africa.

Covers from the Nigerian and Gold Coast forces in East Africa are decidedly scarce. Perhaps the greatest military postal history collection to ever come on the market, the A.J. Brown collection (Ref. 3), had but one example from a member of the West African Field Force described as:

> Lot 256: WEST AFRICA - W.A. FIELD FORCE COVER EX-MKINDU; 16th Feb. 1917 stampless "On Service" envelope to London with a very fine "F.P.O./No. 52" c.d.s (Mkindu near Rufiji) on the reverse; endorsed as being from a Captain in the "W.A.F.F." and rare thus. Estimate £50, realised £95.

The cover shown in Figure1 may be from a member of the Gold Coast Regiment in German East Africa during World War I. It is addressed to Mrs. Mary Apelety, c/o Father Burg at the Catholic Mission in Seccondea (sic), Gold Coast, West Africa. The reverse bears the mark of the Indian FPO 341, 4 October 1917 (Figure 2). According to Proud (Ref. 4), this Field Post Office was located at (Kilwa) Kisiwani, German East Africa during this time period. The reverse also has a Freetown, Sierra Leone backstamp of 12 November 1917. The straight line "Passed By Censor" was applied in Sierra Leone (Ref. 5).



Fig. 2 : Backstamp of FPO 341 Indian Stationary PO at Kisiwani, German East Africa.

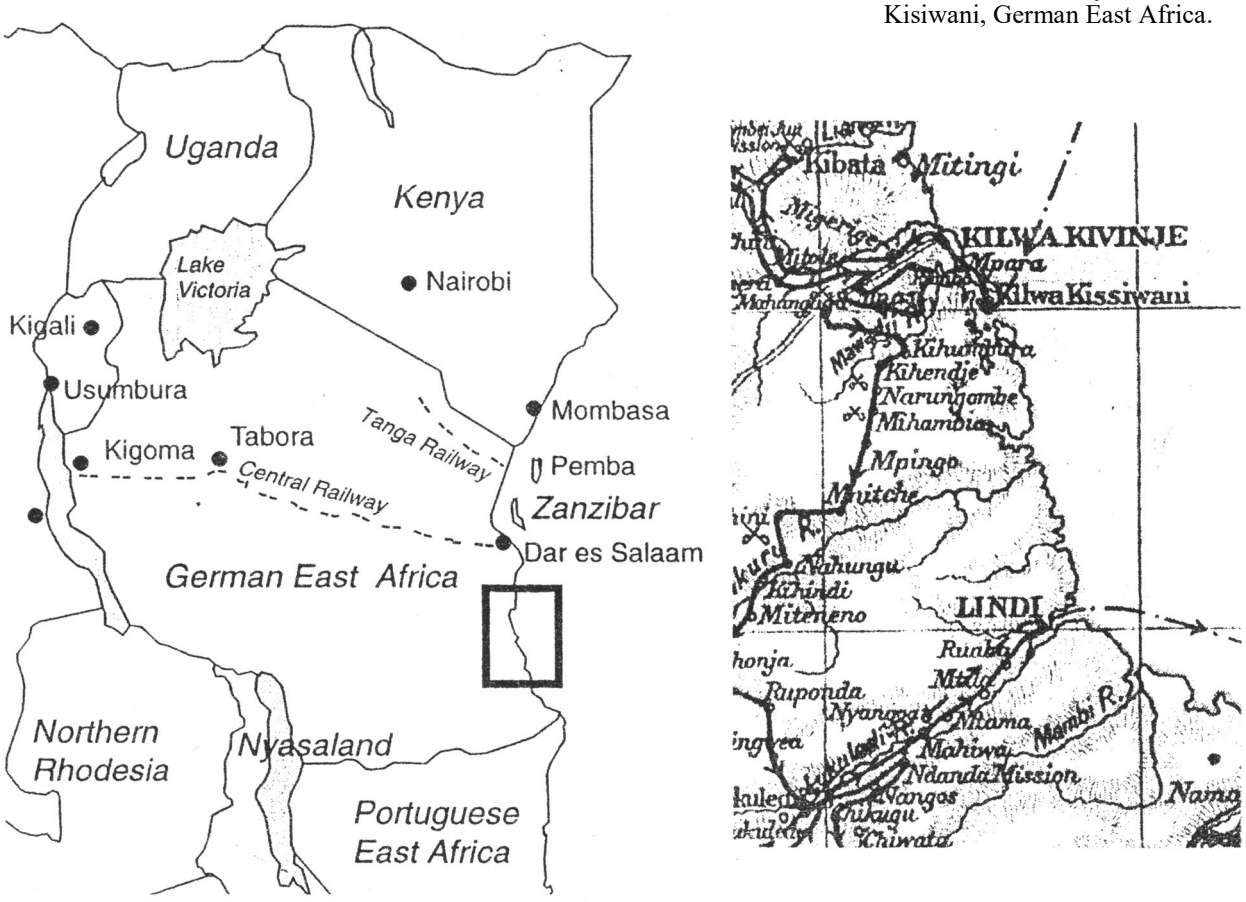


Figure 3. Movements of the Gold Coast Regiment in German East Africa. Boxed region on left is enlarged on right.

The Gold Coast Regiment arrived at Kilwa Kisiwani on 19 November 1916 (see Figure 3). The map shows the movement of the Regiment from there to Narungombe, Mpingo etc throughout 1917, finally reaching Miteneno in early October 1917 (the map is taken from Ref. 2). Given that the supply line reached back toward Kilwa Kisiwani, it seems reasonable to conclude a letter from the Gold Coast Regiment would have been posted through the Indian FPO there. Given the destination of the letter and the proximity of the known location of the Gold Coast Regiment to the Indian Field Post Office, I feel strongly that a member of this force posted the cover.

References

1. Akinjide Osuntokun, *Nigeria in the First World War*, Humanities Press, Atlantic Highlands NJ, USA, 1979.
2. Hugh Clifford, *The Gold Coast Regiment in the East African Campaign*, 1920 (Reprinted by Battery Press, 1995).
3. Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, *The Alan J. Brown Collection of Military Postal History*, Derby, 6 Dec 1996.
4. Proud E.B., *History of the Indian Army Postal Service. Volume II 1914-1931*.
5. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p72, WASC, 1993
6. Regis Hoffman, "The Gold Coast Regiment in German East Africa", *FPHS Newsletter*, No. 240 Vol. XXIV No. 10, pp269-271, Forces Postal History Society.

West African Airmail First Flights

Jeremy Martin

A gap in West African philatelic literature is the absence of a combined listing of first flights into and out of the territories covered by the circle. Muller's catalogue (Ref. 1) is, I believe, the most recent listing. Several other writers have covered individual countries through various leaflets and books. For some years now I have kept a record of all data that I have come across. One of the problems is discrepancy over dates, possibly the result of intended date of departure differing from the actual date of the flight.

My records include more details which would be included in a subsequent book. The listing given below is the first of a series of similar articles that are planned over the forthcoming issues of *Cameo*. More detailed information, correction and additions from members would be welcomed.

1925

27 October	Survey flight Cairo [Egypt] - Kano [Nigeria], arriving 3 November
12 November	Return flight Kano - Cairo

1926

8 February	Zinder [Niger] - Niamey [Niger] by car; Niamey - Bamako [Mali] by air; Bamako - Dakar [Senegal] by train.
31 March	First mail by French line U.K. via Paris [France] - Toulouse [France] - Casablanca [Morocco] - Dakar and by sea to Bathurst [Gambia].
12 October	France - Madagascar stopping at various places en route including Lokodja (sic) [Nigeria] on 4 November.

1931

2 April	First Bathurst - Dakar airmail by W.G. Pudney
5 November	RAF flight Lagos [Nigeria] - Warri [Nigeria] - Port Harcourt [Nigeria]. The return journey was by surface.
26 November	Pernambouco [Brazil] - Bathurst. Pilot was Hinckler.

1933

28 May	Riga [Latvia] - Bathurst. Aeroplane crashed in Germany.
4 June	Trial German flight Bathurst - *Westfalen*[flying boat].
22 June	Natal [Brazil] - *Westfalen* - Bathurst.
6 December	Bathurst - Natal. Pilot was Lindbergh.

1934

5 February	Bathurst - *Westfalen* - Natal. DLH.
9 February	Natal - *Westfalen* - Bathurst - Stuttgart [Germany]. First return of catapult service. Arrived 12 February.
10 February	Bathurst - Stuttgart. DLH. See above
27 July	Mail for Bathurst accepted in UK for DLH service. Stuttgart 28 July; Bathurst 30 July.
10 November	First official despatch by DLH Bathurst - England arriving 14 November.
14 December	Weihnachten Christmas green cachet applied to mail leaving Germany for Bathurst. Arrived 17 December.
15 December	Bathurst - Natal Christmas flight by DLH flying boat service.

1935

27 February	Brussels [Belgium] - Paris (28 February) - Cotonou [Dahomey] (9 March) - Lome [Togo] (11 March) - Keta [Gold Coast] (11 March) - Accra [Gold Coast] (18 March).
21 May	Bathurst - Natal. Pilot was Piombo.
6 October	Brussels - Leopoldville [Belgian Congo].
1 November	Leopoldville - Brussels return flight via Stanleyville [Belgian Congo] - Fort Lamy [Chad] - Kano (not on outward flight) - Gao [Mali] - Rabat [Morocco] - Madrid [Spain].
14 November	Recife [Brazil] shuttle flight by Graf Zeppelin arriving Bathurst 16 November.
22 November	Second Graf Zeppelin shuttle arriving Bathurst 25 November.
29 November	Third Graf Zeppelin shuttle arriving Bathurst 2 December.

1936

5 January	Inauguration Paris - Natal - Buenos Aires [Argentina] service with connection to UK via Kano (how?) to Lagos. London [England] - Paris - Marchseille (5 January) - Kano (17 January) - Lagos (20 January).
7 February	Capetown [South Afrcia] - Khartoum [Sudan] - Kano. IA.
9 February	London - Kano by IA arriving 16 February. Overland connection to Lagos (19 February) and Cape Coast [Gold Coast] (27 February).
17 February	Kano - London IA return flight via Khartoum (19 February). Lagos - Kano by rail. Last date 14 February for connection with return flight.
2 March	Athens [Greece] - Kano. IA.
3 March	Sekondi [Gold Coast] and Accra (4 March) first despatches left by sea for Lagos (5 March) to connect by rail with Kano.
16 October	London departure IA service extended Kano to Lagos (22 October).
18 October	Athens - Lagos as above.
29 October	Lagos - Kano (30 October) - London return. IA.

Abbreviations

IA Imperial Airways
DLH Deutsche Luft Hansa

Reference

1. Frank Muller, *Catalogue des Aérogrammes du Monde Entier 1950*, Re-edition de la FISA, 1970

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Kpandu Opening Date

Jeremy Martin

This Togo town is dealt with in the handbook (Ref. 1). It is noted that the Gold Coast Gazette showed that a postal agency was opened on 27 May 1921. The earliest postmark dtae reported was 4 November 1921. I have now discovered a Gold Coast George V ½d stamp clearly postmarked with a Ref 007.01 Kpandu dated 16 April 1921 which suggests that the agency was already open before the Gazette announcement.

Reference

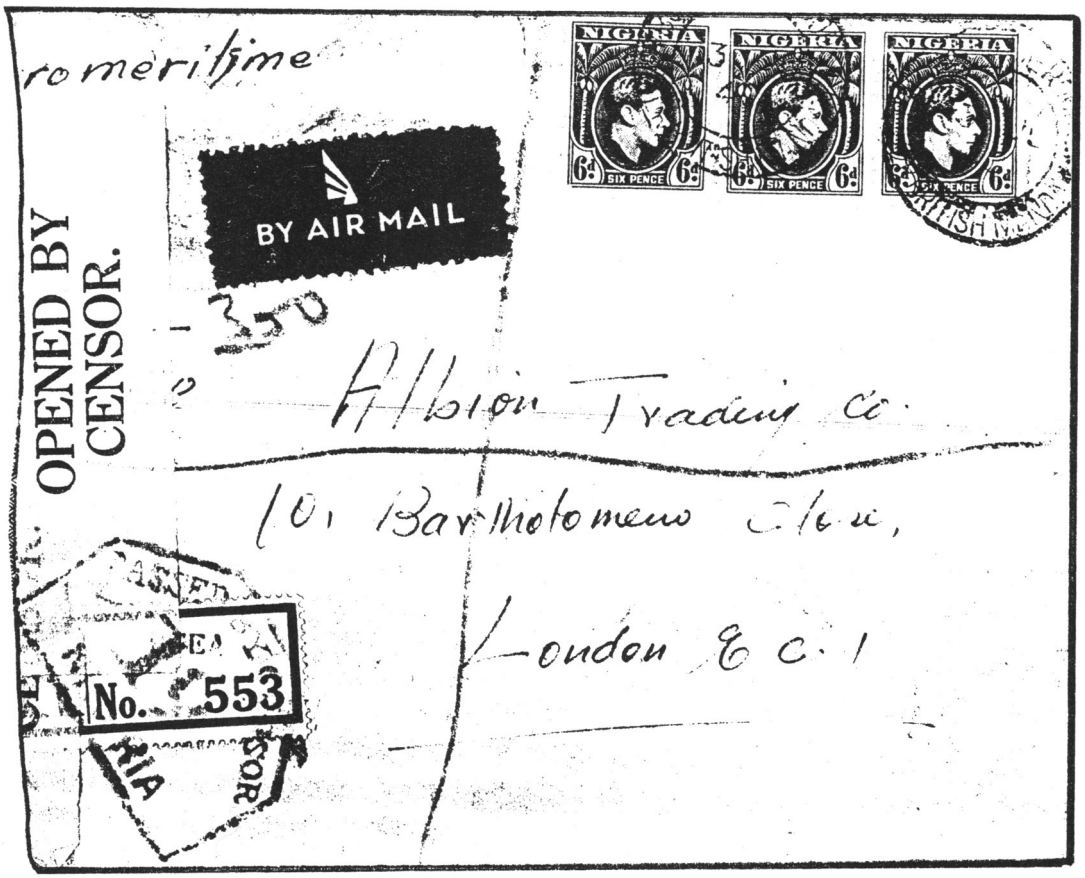
1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p55, WASC, Sheffield 1995

Cameroons Airmail to England via Aeromaritime

Bob Maddocks

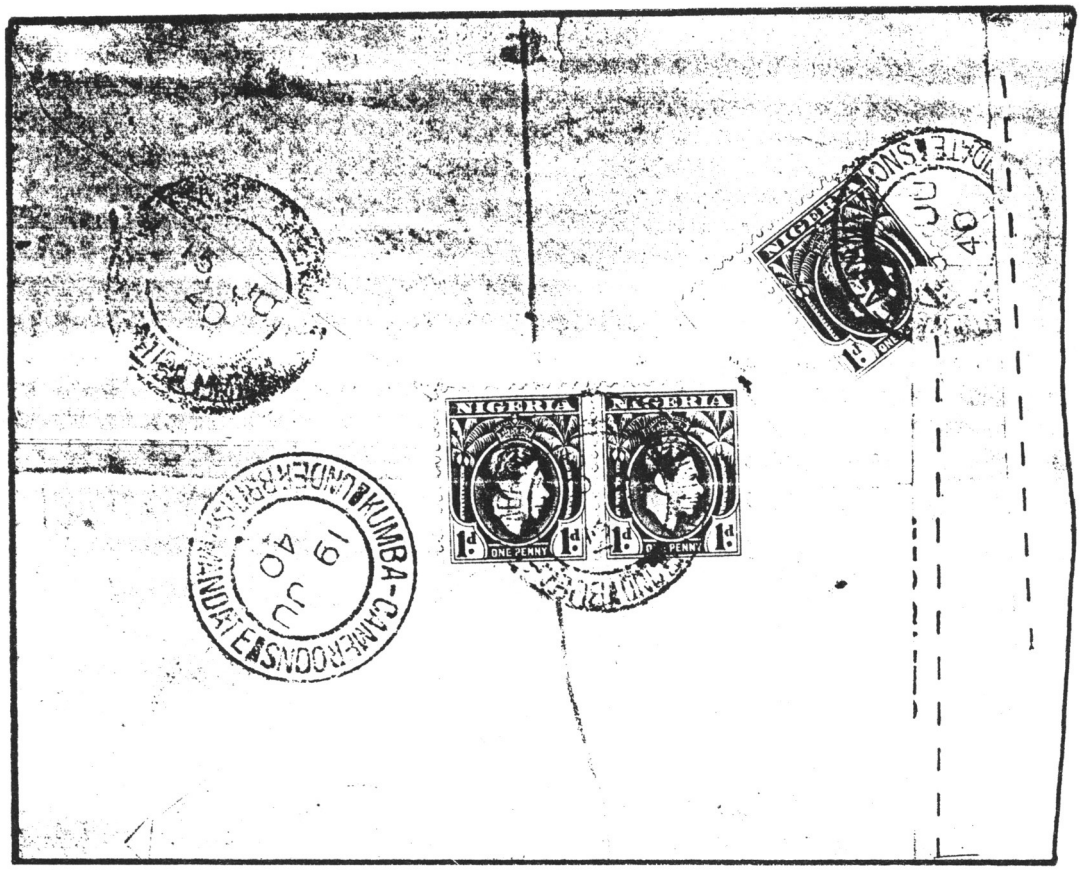
In a previous Cameo (Ref. 1) I illustrated an airmail cover to England posted at Victoria on 27 April 1940. That letter had been specifically routed to Douala, French Cameroons to catch the Aeromaritime flight to Europe, an alternative mailing facility to that provided by British Overseas Airways out of Lagos. This option was authorised by the Nigerian administration. As the cover had been backstamped only three days later at Douala in transit on 30 April 1940 it had probably been carried by the launch service then operating weekly from Tiko, British Cameroons through the creeks taking about five hours. Airmail so despatched via Aeromaritime, provided it met with the scheduled connections at Toulouse, could gain upwards of three days over that despatched via Lagos. This accelerated delivery was expensive at 1s 6d instead of 6d per half ounce.

However, not all such mail for Aeromaritime was sent to Douala via the creeks' route. It was somewhat spasmodic according, it seems, to the requirements of the authorities and to the economics of the operation. Bearing in mind the unsettled times in the early 1940s and the fact that this route was in addition to the regular overland courier service via Mundame and Mbanga, it is easy to understand why the creek route was not always available. The regular route also operated weekly, taking five days between Victoria and Douala. Mundame was reached from Victoria by road via Kumba and Mbanga by rail from Douala with mails being exchanged at the border between British and French Cameroons.



13 June 1940 - Buea to London, England

The cover illustrated above, endorsed *Aeromaritime* by the sender, went from Buea to Douala by this overland route through the interior instead of the coastal area. A registered item addressed to London, it was posted at Buea on 13 June 1940 being franked to a value of 1s 9d with stamps on both sides (registration 3d plus



Reverse of cover

Aeromaritime 1s 6d). Forwarded on to Victoria it was backstamped there 15 June 1940 and was also censored and resealed. The censor's Passed By Censor / 19 / Nigeria handstamp was applied in Victoria, and is the earliest recorded date so far. The item was then despatched to Kumba (19 June 1940) where it was bagged and taken to Mundame / Mbanga and railed to Douala. As there are no French Cameroun postal markings on the envelope it would seem that the Kumba bag had been sealed through to London.

Aeromaritime services were militarised after the Germans captured Paris in June 1940 - did this cover transit France before the Vichy arranged armistice became effective on 25 June 1940?

Reference

1. Bob Maddocks, "West African Airmails Carried by the French Aeromaritime Service", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp63-65, WASC, July 1995

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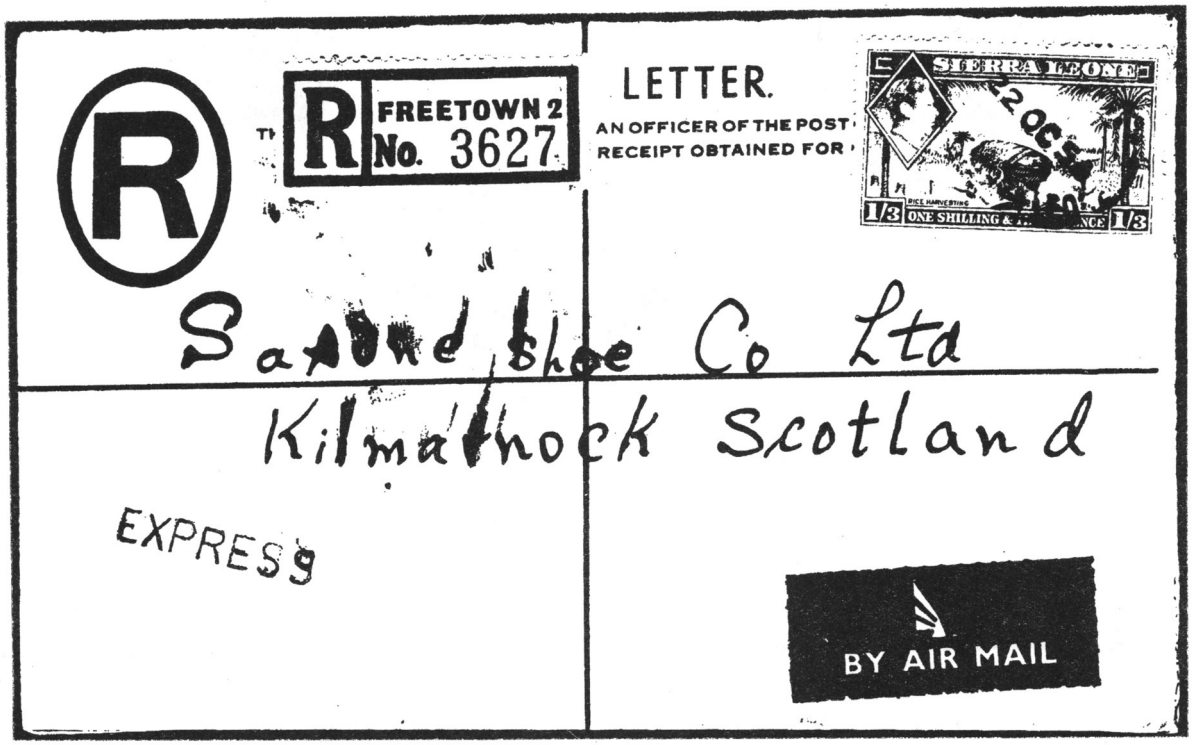
Civil Censor Tape on Sierra Leone Military Cover

Mike Roberts

I have an *On Active Service* cover addressed to Berne in Switzerland pre-paid by a 3d GB stamp and cancelled by a Freetown FPO; additionally there is a Freetown backstamp of 2 June 1945. Most unusually it has been censored and then resealed by a civil OPENED BY EXAMINER / QQ/40 tape. Not only is it a very late date, QQ/40 is also a new number. My only thought as to why it received a civil tape is that the contents could have been written in a foreign language that required specialised censorship. Any other explanations?

Sierra Leone Express Post

Frank Walton



22 October 1954 - Freetown to Kilmarnock, Scotland

The express facility was introduced from Sierra Leone on 1 January 1898 for mail addressed to countries which offered the service at the delivery end, such as the United Kingdom (Ref. 1). A special double-oval handstamp (Walton Ref. 714.01) was sent out to the colony on 17 July 1899 (Ref. 2), but this has never been recorded used. In 1898, the Express Fee was set at 3d per letter or 5d for parcels.

The *Sierra Leone Royal Gazettes* frequently refer to the fact that postage rates are exclusive of the express fee, but most annoyingly I have not been able to discover any reference to the actual charge to be made for this service after 1898.

The 4d registered stationery envelope illustrated above has a 1s 3d stamp on the front to pay the airmail rate, plus a 6d stamp on the back, presumably covering an increased express charge, making a total rate of 2s 1d.

This EXPRESS handstamp has not been seen before to my knowledge; I have allocated it Ref. 714.02.

References

1. "Rules concerning the Express Delivery service in connection with the Post Office", *Sierra Leone Royal Gazette*, 31 August 1898.
2. Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, p91, WASC, Sheffield 1990

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Sierra Leone to Togo Postal Service, 1920

Frank Walton

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

POSTAL SERVICES WITH TOGOLAND.

The Public are notified that owing to the inclusion of Lome and Palime in French Togoland, instead of British Togoland, the following changes have been made :—

1 Money Orders are no longer sent direct to Lome or Palime, but are forwarded through the Imperial Post Office, London, and dealt with under the conditions applicable to Foreign Money Orders.

2 Postal Order business between this Colony and Lome and Palime has been discontinued.

3 Parcels addressed to Lome or Palime are forwarded to London for transmission through the French Postal Service.

H. T. MARCH,
Postmaster General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE,
25th October, 1920.

The above article appeared on page 857 of the *Sierra Leone Royal Gazette*, dated October 1920.

Gold Coast Clearing House

Roy Cooper



The latest recorded date for the above Clearing House handstamp is given as 1899 by Mike Mackin (Ref. 1). I have discovered an example on SG 53, the Edward VII 3d issued in August 1905, but unfortunately no date is evident other than the letters 'ON' in the position where the year slugs normally appear. Could this be an inverted 'NO' for November perhaps? The size of the outer ring and the lettering is exactly the same as other examples in my collection.

Reference

1. Mackin M.T., *The Gold Coast ... Cancellations 1875-1957*, p58, WASC, Revised edition 1990

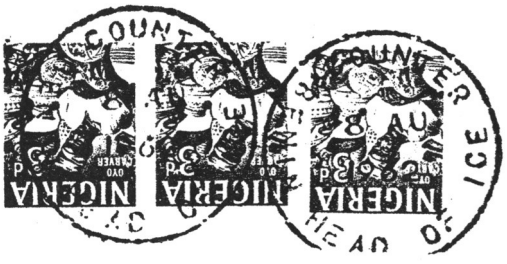
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Benin Head Of Ice Counter?

Bob Maddocks

With the second 'F' missing from the datestamp, does it indicate that Benin must be a cool Nigerian place for tropical correspondence?!

The date is 8 August 1962, a month later than listed by Neville Jones (Ref. 1).



Reference

1. Jones N.M., *The Cancellations and Postmarks of Nigeria 1914 -1980*, p46, WASC, 1993

Uyo Registered Datestamp

Bob Maddocks



UYO REGD
Illustration ex Jones



REGD UYO
Additional setting

Both Jones (Ref. 1) and Proud (Ref. 2) show a circular skeleton registered datestamp made up as UYO REGD / NIGERIA for 21 December 1956 and 18 September 1953 respectively. Each is shown as being off -centre; usage is given as from 20 May 1952 to 7 January 1959. Jones allocates the known mark as Type R9, and Proud Type R2.

I have an Uyo registered cover to England with three strikes of a similar, if not the same, datestamp but with a different setting. My example is dated 9 June 1952. Given that the arrangement is better centred, is it likely that this was how the datestamp was first made?

References

1. Jones N.M., *The Cancellations and Postmarks of Nigeria 1914-1980*, pp245&268, WASC, 1993
2. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Nigeria*, p788, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995

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Togo 1d De La Rue Printings

Peter Newroth

Following my article in the last Cameo (Ref. 1), I have been asked to provide a breakdown of the individual printings of the Togo 1d overprints made by De La Rue. My records show that there were four despatches:

Date Invoiced	Stamps
19 May 1916	122,640
2 April 1918	121,200
21 August 1918	362,400
7 September 1920	121,440
Total	727,680

Reference

1. Peter Newroth, “Togo London Overprint Quantities”, *Cameo*, Volume 6 p137, WASC, January 1999

Using the Crown Agents' Requisition Books

Jeremy Martin

[Editor's Note : Reproduced with permission from the London Philatelist (Ref. 1)]

In researching the definitive issues of Nigeria from 1961 onwards, I have studied the Requisition Books of the 1960-1965 period held by the Philatelic Collections of the British Library. These books included several sets of initials, not all of which I could work out, and there were also some other queries.

Rod Vousden, a Curator at the Philatelic Collections, has helped me with the following:

CA	Crown Agents
CB	Crown Agents Stamp Bureau
CRO Library	(former) Colonial Record Office Library
Com. Inst.	Commonwealth Institute
BM	British Museum
Contractor	The Printers, e.g. Harrison & Sons
HM	Her Majesty The Queen
A/F	Air Freight
Stamp Reels	Coils
PP and PhP	Abbreviations for the Philatelic Press
CI	Chief Inspector

If the books showed CA 2 against a new issue, one stamp went to the Crown Agents as a reference copy; the second also went to the Crown Agents' Chief Inspector of Stamps to be used for reference purposes. CA 1 meant that the issue did not go through Inspection channels.

Specimens - if, for example, shown as 411 + 6, the six were spares in case additional countries joined the UPU. At the end of the currency of the issue, the spares were returned to the Crown Agents for destruction, by burning.

To ascertain the numbers of stamps issued, one uses the 'DESPATCHED' columns (see the accompanying example). The quantity shown, usually in number of sheets, is the number for despatch, not the 'SHEETS' column to the left. If the 'QUANTITY' column is blank, the figure in the 'SHEETS' column should be used, as a guide.

Under 'DESPATCHED', there is also a 'DATE' column. This often has two dates, e.g. 3-11-60 and 16-1-61. This indicates that the first despatch (to the Colony) was on 3 November 1960, and the last was on 16 January 1961 with, possibly, other despatches between these two dates. However, the 'QUANTITY' is the total of all the despatches.

The example taken for illustration of the entries comes from page 193 of the 1960 Requisition Book. Reproduction is by kind permission of the British Library Philatelic Collections, who hold the copyright, and I am delighted to express my thanks for the help given to me by Rod Vousden. The illustrations are on the following two pages.

Reference

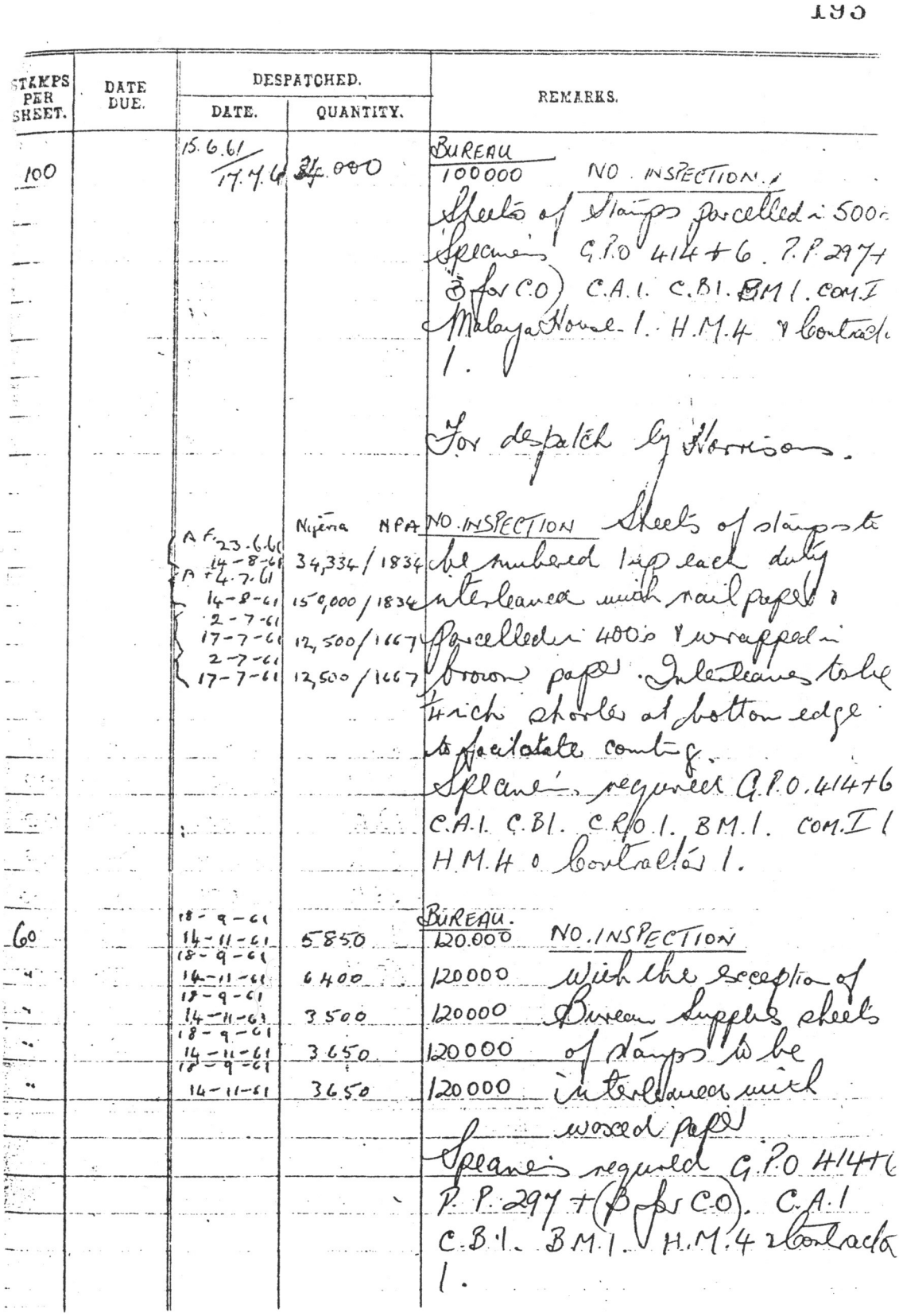
1. Jeremy Martin, "Using the Crown Agents' Requisition Books", *London Philatelist*, Volume 108 p139, RPSL, May 1999.

Crown Agents' Requisition Books, 1961

REQN.	ADMINISTRATION.	DESCRIPTION.	DUTY.	NO. OF SHEETS.		NO. OF STAMPS.	
6735/1	Malaya (SELANGOR) Coronation of the Sultan of Selangor.	Commemorative Postage & Revenue Stamps	10 SEN	33.000		3300000	
5694/1	Ghana P.T.	Stamp Wallets		100.			
				NIGERIA	N.P.A.	NIGERIA	N.P.A.
247/1	Nigeria Com. (UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION. COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE)	Commemorative Postage & Revenue Stamps	1d	34334	1834	2060040	110040
			3d	150000	1831	9000000	110040
			1/3	12500	1664	750000	100020
			2/6	12500	1664	750000	100020
2363/1	Inaugn 75th Anniversary of Postal Service in the Kingdom	Commemorative Postage & Revenue Stamps	1d	5500		330000	
			2d	6000		360000	
			4d	3500		210000	
			5d	3500		210000	
			1/-	3500		210000	

This sample page includes entries to Ghana Stamp Wallets (Reqn. 5694/1) and to the Nigeria UPU commemoration issue.

Crown Agents' Requisition Books, 1961



STAMPS PER SHEET.	DATE DUE.	DESPATCHED. DATE.	DESPATCHED. QUANTITY.	REMARKS.
100		15.6.61 / 17.7.61	24.000	BUREAU 100000 NO. INSPECTION. Sheets of stamps parcelled in 500s Specimen G.P.O 414+6. P.P. 297+ 3 for C.O) C.A.1. C.B1. BM1. com.I Malaya House 1. H.M.4 + Contracts 1. For despatch by Harrison.
		A.F. 23.6.61 / 14-8-61 / P + 4.7.61 / 14-8-61 / 2-7-61 / 17-7-61 / 2-7-61 / 17-7-61	Nigeria NPA 34,334/1834 / 15,000/1836 / 12,500/1667 / 12,500/1667	NO. INSPECTION Sheets of stamps to be numbered top each duty interleaved with rail paper & parcelled in 400s & wrapped in brown paper. Interleaves to be which shorter at bottom edge to facilitate counting. Specimens required G.P.O. 414+6 C.A.1. C.B1. C.R.O.1. BM.1. com.I 1 H.M.4 & Contracts 1.
60		18-9-61 / 14-11-61 / 18-9-61 / 14-11-61 / 18-9-61 / 14-11-61 / 18-9-61 / 14-11-61 / 18-9-61 / 14-11-61	5850 / 6400 / 3500 / 3650 / 3650	BUREAU. 120.000 NO. INSPECTION 120000 With the exception of 120000 Bureau Supply sheets 120000 of stamps to be 120000 interleaved with waxed paper Specimens required G.P.O 414+6 P.P. 297+(3 for C.O). C.A.1 C.B.1. BM.1. H.M.4 & Contracts 1.

Sierra Leone Essays for Surcharges of 1967

Peter Rolfe

The *Sierra Leone Gazette* of 30 November 1967 (Fig. 1) printed Government Notice number 1347 advising increased postal rates that included ½c steps for the first time. No existing issues covered these steps, so new issues were required. These new rates were effective from 4 December 1967.

The revised Cola Nut definitive issue was under preparation and included the necessary ½c steps. This issue was officially released on 2 December 1967 and should have met the need. Some values had been distributed some months earlier (1c, 2c, 3c and 5c are all known). However, there must have been some doubts as to the availability of this issue in Sierra Leone as it was decided to issue a set of provisional surcharges.

These surcharges were overprinted on surplus stocks of previous issues, as had become customary in Sierra Leone, and were printed by their philatelic agent and entrepreneur, Bernard Mechanick. There does not seem to have been any formal notice of the issue, but a special handstamp shows the date of issues as 2 December 1967 and also give the title 'New Rate' to this issue. The eleven values issued are as follows:

Scott			SG
6½c	in red on the 75c Margai / Churchill overprint value	410	329
7½c	in silver on the 75c Margai / Churchill overprint value	411	330
9½c	in green on the 50c Margai / Churchill overprint value	412	331
11½c	in black on the 40c Coat of Arms value	419	
12½c	in violet on the 20c Margai / Churchill overprint value	413	332
17½c	in black on the 50c Coat of Arms value	414	334
17½c	in blue on Le 1.00 Third Provisional overprint on Kennedy	415	333
18½c	in black on Le 1.00 Third Provisional overprint on Kennedy	416	336
18½c	in black on 60c Third Provisional overprint on World Fair	417	335
25c	in black on the 50c Coat of Arms value	418	337
25c	in black on the 40c Coat of Arms value	420	

This issue is not common and no figures are available as to the numbers overprinted, although it is known that the 18½c on 60c is the scarcest. They are not often seen on cover as the issue was rapidly superseded by the Cola Nut definitive issue.

There was an elaborate First Day handstamp, but it has only been seen in red on cancelled to order items. There are only a few minor varieties to the surcharge:

Fraction bar offset to the left at Row 4 Stamp 12 on the 6½c

Fraction bar offset to the right at Row 4 Stamp 12 on the 7½c, 9½c and 12½c

Dropped surcharge on 12½c value; no position known but may be from whole sheet.

Some essays for these surcharges have come to light, possibly from Bernard Mechanick's records, that are known to have been released onto the market over the last few years.

Figure 2 shows printed examples of all values except those used on the Coat of Arms issues. Numbers 6 to 9 were not used.
Figure 3 shows hand-drawn suggestions in black ink for the 18½c values on the Maps self-adhesive issues. Example A was adopted for the 17½c and 18½c values.
Figure 4 shows hand-drawn suggestions in green ink for the 9½c value. Example D was chosen.

Govt. Notice No. 1347

PULICE NOTICE

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISIO N

It is notified for general information that on and from 4th December, 1967 the following increased postage rates will be effective:—

	Inland	*U.K. and Commonwealth Countries*	*Foreign Countries*
Letters:—			
Not exceeding 1 oz. ...	3½c	7½c	11½c
Each additional 1 oz. or part thereof	2½c	6½c	8½c
Postcards:—			
Each	2c	6½c	6½c
Registration Fee:—			
(In addition to postage) ...	17½c	18½c	18½c
Express Delivery Fee:—			
(Except parcels) ...	15½c in addition to postage (and registration) if registered.		

AIR MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Country	*Letters per ½ oz. Cents*	*Post Cards each Cents*	*Air Letters Cents*	*Second Class Air mail ½ oz. Cents*
United Kingdom ...	15	9½	9½	9½
Most European Countries	15	9½	9½	9½
Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia	7	5½	9	5½
Senegal (Republic of)...	10	7	9	5
U.S.A.	25	18½	9½	18½
Lebanon (Rebpulic of)	20	9½	9½	—
Guinea	10	7	9½	4
Liberia	10	9½	9½	9½

FOR AIR MAIL RATES TO OTHER COUNTRIES, APPLY AT ANY POST OFFICE

BY ORDER

C. S. DAVIES.
Director.

POSTS & TELECOMS. DIV.,
FREETOWN.

Figure 1 : Sierra Leone Gazette Notice

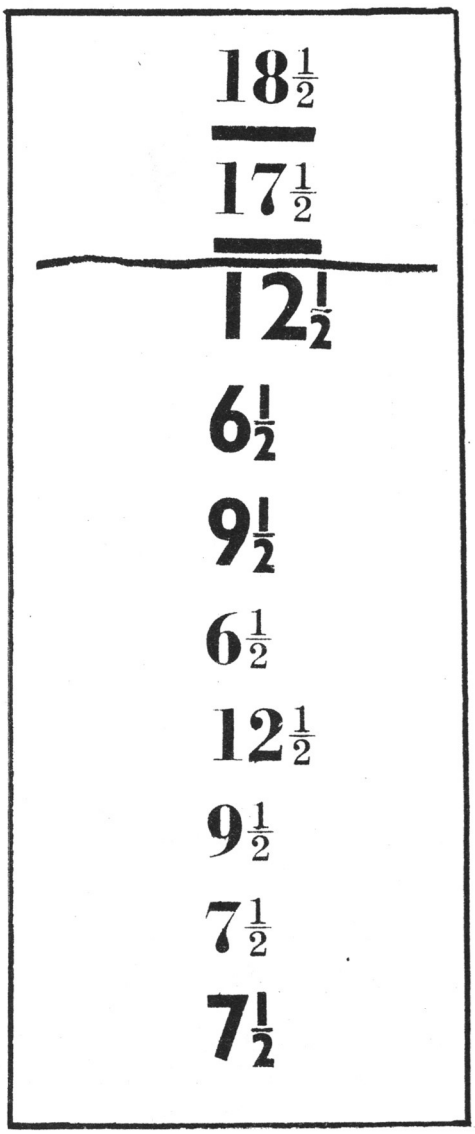


Figure 2 : Printed in Black

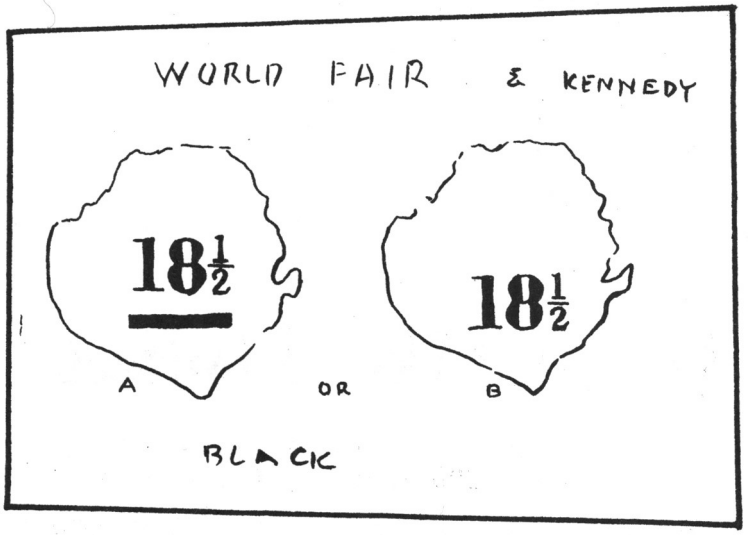


Figure 3 : Hand-drawn in Black Ink

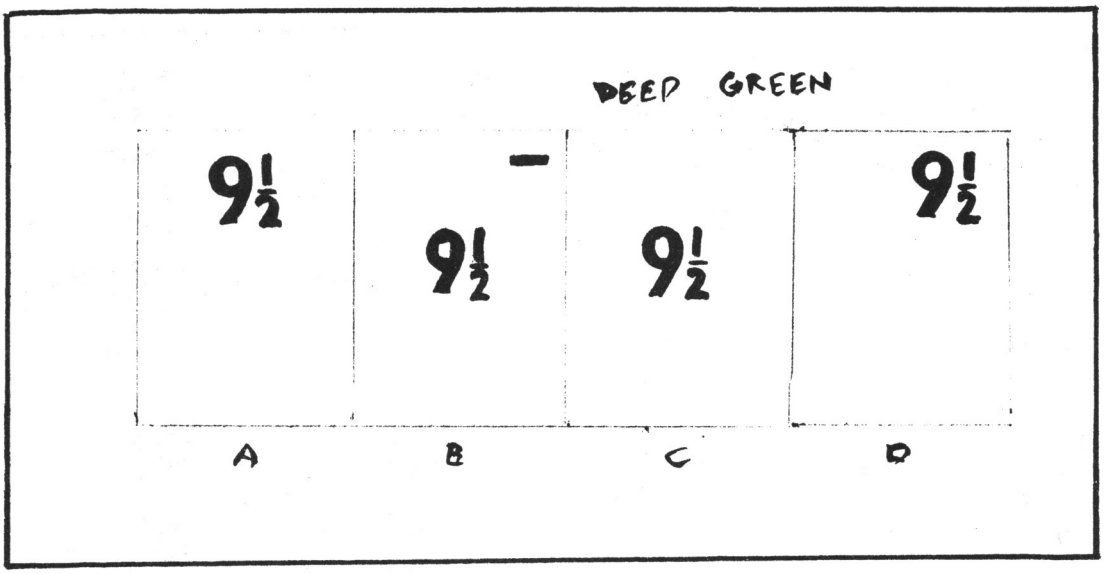


Figure 4 : Hand-drawn in Green Ink

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

ASCENSION, 1935. A plain cover sent to UK, with KGV Silver Jubilee set cancelled on first day of issue, 6th May. **£50**

ASCENSION, 1963. The booklet containing 4 each of 1d, 1.1/2d, 2d, 3d, 6d & 1/6d stamps, very fine, with tab seal intact. **£50**

GAMBIA, 1935. Silver Jubilee stamps - 3d mint single, 6d mint (toned gum) & 1/- unmounted mint, both these in left marginal block of four, showing Variety 31 of Plate 1, "two dots above Colony's name". 9 stamps. **£40**

GOLD COAST, 1899. The 1d carmine postal stationery postcard, cancelled by "ABURI / GOLD COAST" cds JY 8, sent to Switzerland. **£85**

GHANA, 1959. An artist's preliminary pencil drawing of a design denominated 15, featuring Arms, and Kwame Nkrumah. (Design not adopted). **£65**

NIGER COAST, 1894. A plain cover, printed lower left on front "POST OFFICE / NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE", framed with the 1894 set of 6 values, each cancelled by "Old Calabar-River" cds, AP 13, sent to London. **£95**

SIERRA LEONE, 1923. The £5 orange & green (SG 148), a fine fresh copy with trimmed margin attached. **£850**

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	1912-22 3d. with "Split A", mint. (SG 91d)	£45
	1912-22 1/6d. with "Split A", mint. (SG 98a)	£150
	1921 71/2d. with "Watermark reversed", mint. (SG 115x)	£15
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ST.HELENA	1934 Centenary set to 10/-, mint. (SG114-23)	£130
SIERRA LEONE	1901(Sept. 7) 2d. reg. p. stat. Env. bearing addnl. QV 1d. tied by oval FREETOWN d.s. with superb "PORT LOKKOH" cds. alongside.	£150
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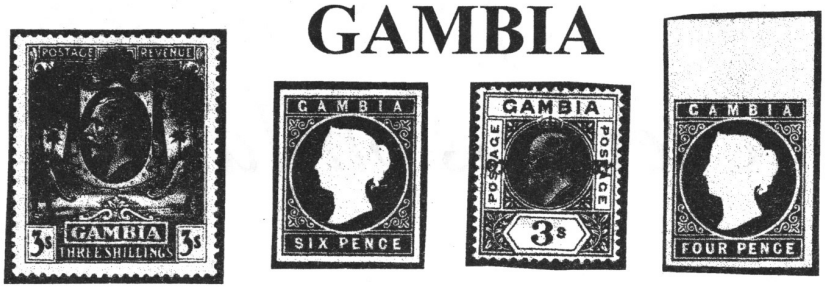
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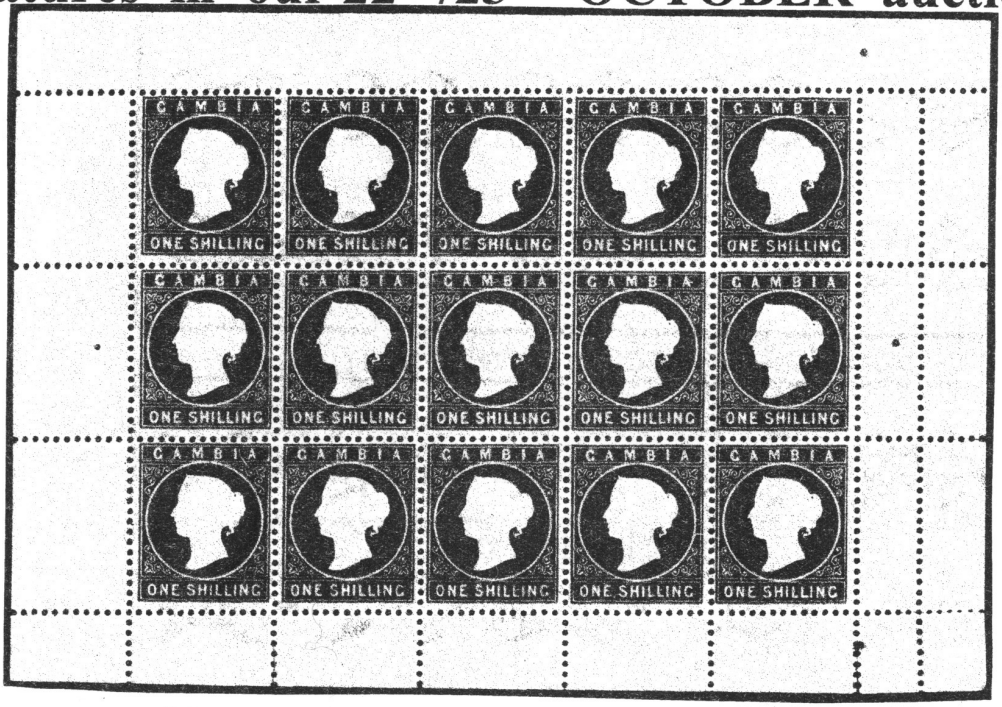
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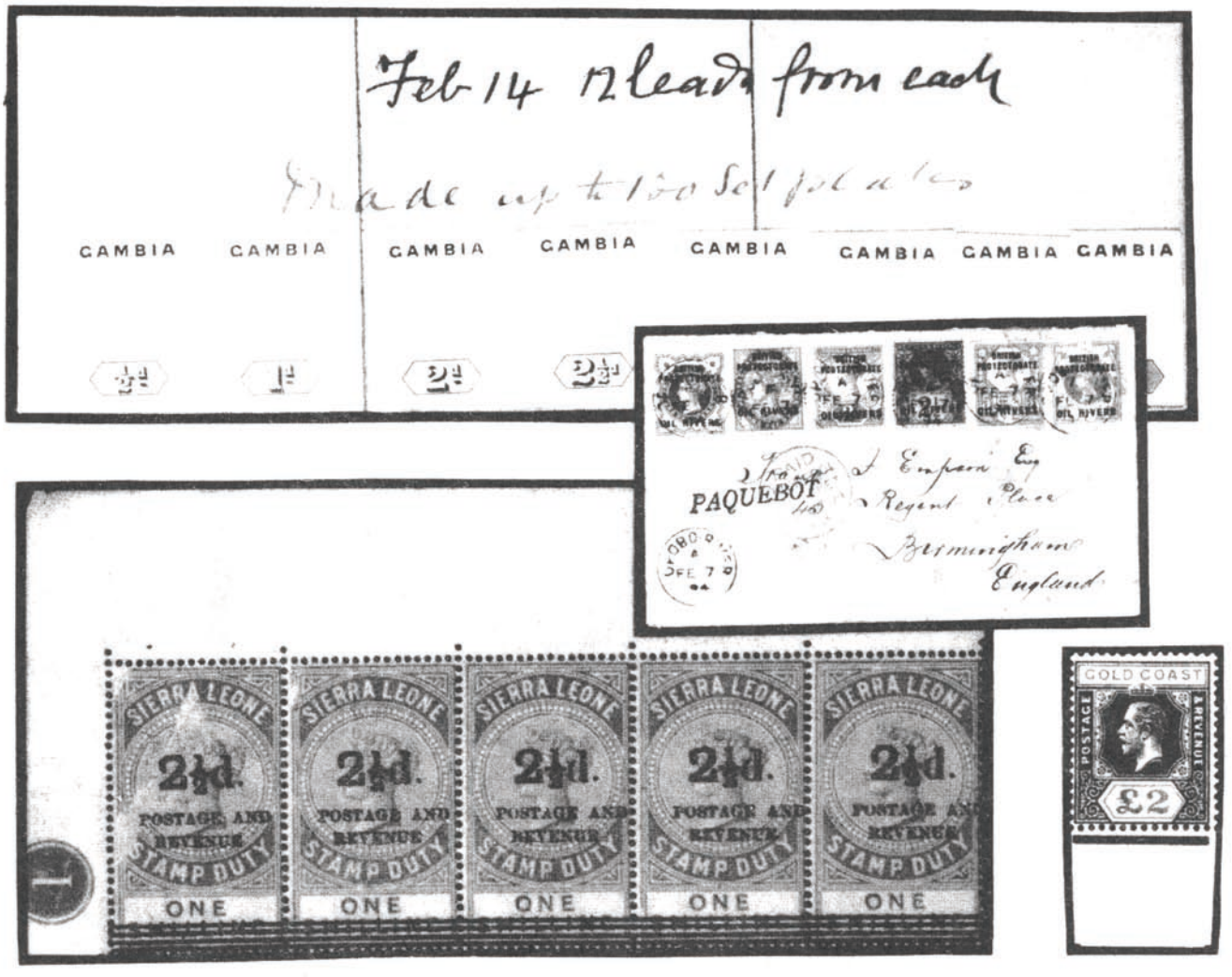
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