

G A M E O



**Journal of the
West Africa Study Circle**

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 10

JULY 1984

Do you collect British West Africa Postal History?

IF SO WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU

Our stocks consist of British Commonwealth Postal History (with post-cards from some colonies). If you would care to inform us of your collecting interests, we would be delighted to send you photocopies of any relative items we obtain.

Besides being members of the W.A.S.C. we are members P.T.S. (London) A.S.D.A. (New York)

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MEMBERS' SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

As an additional service to readers of "Cameo" it has been decided to introduce a small classified ad. section in each issue. It is hoped that this will enable members of W.A.S.C. who are unable to attend regular meetings, to acquire specialist material, or dispose of surplus, to fellow members of the Circle. There is no limit to the subject matter of the advertisement placed, and typical examples might be requests for specialist assistance in research as well as the more usual sale/wanted ads.

A small charge will be levied for insertion, and this will help to support "Cameo" in its present form. The basic charge for up to 40 words will be £1, with a further £1 for 41-80 words and so on. Payment should be made preferably by cheque made out to W.A.S.C., and this payment should accompany the advertisement copy when sent. The address for sending advertising is:

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WANTED: Sierra Leone SG80 and 81 (used), SG81 (mint). Also stamps (pre-independence) on cover. Purchase or exchange. J. Hossock, 28 Saxons Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

POSTMARKS WANTED: Niger Coast Protectorate used stamps or pieces, clear postmarks all places, types and/or code letters on all values of four main sets between SG1-74, i.e. omitting expensive provisionals. Very optimistic aim is to acquire every postmark on every possible stamp. CTO accepted if date logical. Please send details and price basis to: Norman Clowes, 20 Ogwen Drive, Lakeside, Cardiff.

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EDITORIAL

This issue sees the completion of a decade of Cameo. Your Editor is very fortunate in one respect and that is that he is rarely short of material for the magazine. However, the Librarian does receive requests from new members for articles on more modern material. Ray Harris in this issue is commencing a series on modern Nigerian definitives but we could do with more from the other territories.

There are some corrections to be made to the Gana Gana article which appeared in the last issue. In Column 1, fifth paragraph, line 4, 'Nuu' should read 'Nun'; in Column 2, fifth paragraph, line two, 'shortlisted' should be 'short term' and in line seven 'island' should read 'inland'.

The index to Volume 2 should appear in the next issue.

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The cost of Cameo is met, in part, by our advertisers. Supporting them helps us all and could enable our Advertising Manager persuade more people to take space.

WHOLE NUMBER 20

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WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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WEST AFRICAN COINAGE

M. J. ROBERTS

No apologies are needed for taking up a page of a philatelic journal with a review of a coin book as this is the definitive volume for anyone even remotely interested in the numismatics of the former British colonies in West Africa. In two distinct parts, part one discusses the historic and economic background to the currency of the area with detailed accounts of "primitive" currencies (manillas, cowrie shells, gin, etc.), Sierra Leone Company coinage, African Company of Merchants' coinage for the Gold Coast Settlement and currencies issued in the British West African Settlements from 1808 to 1912 and under the authority of the West African Currency Board until Independence. There is a comprehensive corresponding chapter on St. Helena coinage.

Part two is a detailed catalogue of the issues with all dates and types listed and mostly priced (realistically in this reviewer's opinion) in four grades of preservation. Mintage figures are given where known. Finally, there is a most interesting chapter on trade tokens, advertising tickets and other parnumismatica. Profusely illustrated throughout and very well produced, this publication is highly recommended.

"The Coinage of British West Africa & St. Helena 1684 to 1958" by David Vice. 1983. Hardback. pp.237. Published by Peter Ireland (Format) Ltd., 269 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2DS. £12.75.

POST OFFICE NOTICE 1857

No. 28, 1857.



Reduction of Postage on Letters to the Falkland Islands, Gambia, Labuan, Vancouver's Island, the Ionian Islands, and Natal.

On the 1st July next, and thenceforward, the uniform Sixpenny rate of Postage will be extended to Letters transmitted between the United Kingdom and the following British Colonies, viz.:-

Colony.	How Conveyed.
Falkland Islands	By Packet or Private Ship.
Gambia	
Labuan	By Private Ship.
Vancouver's Island	
Ionian Islands	By Packet via the Cape of Good Hope or Private Ship direct.
Natal	

For a Letter above half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, the Postage will be One Shilling.

When above one ounce, and not exceeding two ounces, Two Shillings, and so on, increasing One Shilling for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The Postage of Letters to the above-mentioned Colonies must, in all cases, be paid in advance.

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

ROWLAND HILL,
SECRETARY.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
19th June, 1857.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY H. K. GARDNER, STATIONER AND PRINTER, 11, BUCKINGHAM STREET, LONDON, W.1.

AIR SERVICE

ALGIERS – ZINDER: 1933

J. J. MARTIN

Various schemes, during the 1920's and 1930's, were put to the Post Office suggesting ways of accelerating the carriage of mail to West Africa. Details have been given in previous issues of CAMEO (Whole numbers 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19).

One such came from the French P.O. and concerned an experimental service between Algiers and Zinder in Upper Volta. P.O. Archives have given permission for the G.P.O. reply to be reproduced (File M 14303/1928).

"With reference to your letter of the 23rd of February regarding the air service between Algiers and Zinder, I

am directed by the Postmaster General to say that owing to the experimental nature of the service he does not propose at present to make use of it for correspondence posted in this Country. The Postmaster General will be glad to receive particulars of the connections between Zinder and Kano and between Zinder and the important places in the Gold Coast. He will also be much obliged if you will be so good as to inform him at the end of the experimental period whether the service is being established."

Nothing seems to have come of this experimental service.

AUCTION REALISATIONS

Realisations include buyer's premium. Estimates in brackets.

William Carson October 15th 1983

The Niger Territories 1891 stampless cover to Hastings with very fine double oval THE NIGER TERRITORIES/ POST/ date/ OFFICE/ AKASSA with P.O. at sides. Endorsed 'No local stamps' with, on reverse, a Liverpool Br. Packet c.d.s. Fine large handstamp '6d' £310 (£200).

Southern Nigeria 1908 'Unpaid Letter Delivery Ticket' used with 1d Ed. VII cancelled at Lagos; also Large Parcel Post Customs form used with Ed. VII ½ and 1d cancelled at Lagos. £80 (£30).

Northern Nigeria 1901 1d on cover to England, part address erased, cancelled in manuscript 'ODERRI/21/11/01' in violet. Northern Nigeria c.d.s. and Manchester arrival c.d.s. on reverse £410 (£500).

St. Helena 1816 ST. HELENA/ PACKET LETTER oval datestamp. A very fine example on EL from George Dunlop to his father in Ayr which mentions the troops guarding Napoleon etc. Various other marks inc. Crown London India Packet Letter etc. £2200 (£750).

Robson Lowe Ltd. November 29th 1983

Ascension 1934 Pictorial issue Die Proofs. 8d; the complete design cut down, in black and ultramarine on thin wove, and the frame only on medium white paper (61 x 111mm.). £378 (£275).

Gambia 1883-93 3d pearl-grey, second comb perf., a mint sheet of fifteen. £119. (£50).

Gold Coast 1894 dull mauve and black, wmk. inverted, some very minor creasing, used. £52 (£30).

Lagos 1873 (18 Feb.) cover, registered "per "Congo" s.s." to Manchester, showing double circle "POST OFFICE: LAGOS/ WEST COAST OF AFRICA" c.d.s. in blue, straight line "REGISTERED", "REGISTERED/ LIVERPOOL" c.d.s. and "PAID/ LIVERPOOL/ SHIP" tombstone d.s. all in red and manuscript '3' and '2/5' computation. £1,026 (£575).

Niger Coast 1892 1d postcard to Liverpool cancelled by QUA-IBOE RIVER/ No 14/93" c.d.s. and 1895 1d postcard to Sierra Leone cancelled by "BRASS" squared-circle d.s. and showing Brass River c.d.s. and Freetown arrival c.d.s. £249 (£40).

Northern Nigeria 1901 (17 July) cover (opened out and creased) to Nova Scotia bearing ½d pair (peripheral foxing) with manuscript "Bida/17/7/01" in black, the Lokoja mark on reverse, . * . £324 (£150).

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions 1984

Ascension 1916 cover to London with pair ½d; clear c.d.s. and handstamp 'CENSORED' in blue. £90 (£75).

Ascension 1916 registered cover to London bearing 3d violet, R/12 reg. label and blue 'CENSORED' handstamp. Cachet on reverse 'C. W. Johnson/No. 9 Mess The Garrison/ASCENSION' £125 (£100).

Robson Lowe Ltd. December 6th 1983

Ascension 1864 small envelope to Sussex, bearing G.B. 1d (6) cancelled on arrival in London with enclosed letters (2), one headed "H.M.S. Archer, Ascension, Sep. 7/63." £302 (£200).

Acorn Philatelic Auctions March 26th 1984

Gold Coast Money Order 1895 6d for 20/-, V.G.U. at ADA with Accra receiving mark. Has been folded, otherwise fine. £52.50 (£40).

Gold Coast Money Order 1928 GV 2d for 1/6d V.F.U. at MAMPONG ASHANTI. Tiny filing hole, otherwise fine. £21. (£40).

AMENDMENTS TO "ASCENSION – THE STAMPS AND POST HISTORY" continued from Cameo, July 1983 and January 1984

JOHN H. ATTWOOD

PART III 1935/79 Commemorative Issues

CHAPTER 2. Occupation of Ascension

"Varieties on the Issued Stamps" the following should be added:-

1973 "50th Anniversary of Departure of Royal Marines from Ascension"

2p black spot over "island" sheet position 12 plate 1B.

12p the "o" in "from" is broken at bottom of left sheet position 18 plate 1D.

Doubling of black printing.

1975 "160th Anniversary of Occupation"

2p inverted watermark.

CHAPTER 3. Installations on Ascension

"Varieties on the Issued Stamps" the following should be added:-

1975 "Wideawake Airfield"
24p inverted watermark.

1979 "80th Anniversary of the Eastern Telegraph Company"
15p inverted watermark.

CHAPTER 5. Royal Naval Crests

"Varieties on the Issued Stamps" the book text should be revised as follows:-

1969 (1st series)
9d value black mark on the Queen's chin, sheet position 11 plate 1A (sheet of 5 rows of 6 stamps per row).

1972 (4th series)
Miniature sheet with double printing of the black ("blanket offsets" do exist which could be mistaken for the very scarce double printing).

Miniature sheet with inverted watermark.

1973 (5th series)
9d value with black flaw at the left end of the ribbon under the crest, sheet position 6 plate 1C (sheet of 6 rows of 5 stamps per row).

13p value with inverted watermark.

CHAPTER 6. Famous Visitors

2. Visit of Professor Gill

The following varieties exist on the 1977 Centenary of Visit of Professor Gill:-

12p value black flaw below "t" of "their", sheet position 1 plate 1C.

25p value black line to the right of "OF" being a plate scratch, sheet position 15.

3. Visit of Captain Cook

The following variety exists on the 1979 Captain Cook's Voyages:-

3p value a blue line through the sail on the left, sheet position 21 plate 1A.

CHAPTER 7. Silver Jubilee, Coronation and Wedding Issues

1. 1935 Silver Jubilee

The various vignette flaws, such as the "Kite" and "Floating Log" are in the colour of the vignette of each particular value and not in black as stated in the book.

There were two printings of this issue but the total number of plates used is not known. However for the 5d value two plates can be identified since in one case the "Floating Log" is in a near vertical position and the "Split Pea" flaw is missing and in the second case the "Floating Log" is horizontal and the "Split Pea" flaw is evident. This "second case" describes the state of these two varieties as found on the 1½d, 2d and 1/- values.

The flaws described and located in sheet positions 53 and 59 occur on all values.

PART IV Post-1921 Postal History

CHAPTER 1. Postage Due Mail

A cover bearing a 1½d 1924/33 definitive (S.G.12) exists with an Ascension c.d.s. of 1 January 1929. Also the cover bears the Ascension "T" mark, 10c in manuscript, Foreign Branch postage due mark of "1d F.B.B." and a G.B. 1d postage due stamp.

CHAPTER 3. Maritime Mail

A further maritime mail marking exists which comprises the wording "POSTED ON STEAMER" in black, contained in a rectangular box 60mm long by 10mm high and which cancels the stamp. This is a Sierra Leone marking.

CHAPTER 5. World War II Censor Markings

2. Military Censorship (British)

At least three covers are known with this octagonal numbered 2428 censor mark, and with one of the covers also bearing an "ASCENSION ISLANDS" censor label.

3. Military Censorship (American)

The closing date of A.P.O. 877 is believed to be 20 May 1947.

AN EARLY CAMEROONS CAMPAIGN ITEM?

M. St. J. WRIGHT

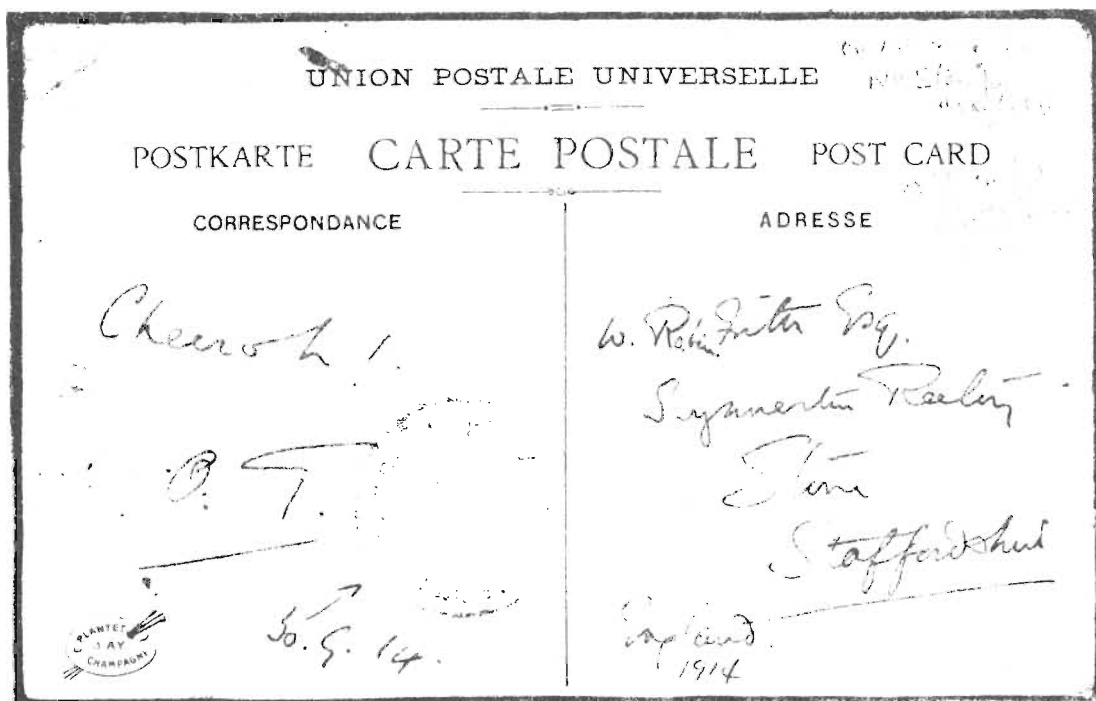
I have recently acquired a French comic postcard which may be an early example from the Cameroons campaign in 1914. My paper on the postal history of the British Cameroons recorded the first dated postmark from Duala (which surrendered on 27th September) as 27th October.

The postcard (illustrated below) has the usual pencil inscription "On Active Service / No Stamps Available" in the top right corner, signed by a lieutenant in the R.F.G. (?). It bears the simplest greeting "Cheerio!" and is addressed to a namesake in England and dated 30.9.14. It could not be more openly unofficial. But it bears a clear impression of a postmark consisting of a single circle 29mm diameter, with LAGOS SOUTHERN NIGERIA in the upper part, OFFICIAL / PAID across

the middle, horizontally, and OC 7 14 curved round at the bottom.

I would suggest that this postmark was applied by a helpful official in Lagos to lend authority to the manuscript assertion and to ensure that the item would not be surcharged on receipt in England. The 'Active Service' would almost certainly have related to the campaign against the Cameroons or, at least, defensive precautions against any attack from there. There is no evidence which side of the frontier the writer was; he may well have been in Nigeria (possibly afloat), but it seems to have been first put into the postal service at Lagos rather than further east, up to a week after being written.

I should be interested to learn of any similar covers, or use of the official paid postmark.



CAMEROONS NEWS

M. St. J. WRIGHT

In the winter I had the pleasure of taking a long week-end in the beautiful city of Amsterdam. A few weeks beforehand I had written to our member Dr. Jan Schelling, who lives in Tiel, which is about an hour's train ride away, to see if there was any chance of our meeting and seeing his collection of British Cameroons.

By a remarkable coincidence Dr. Schelling had organised for that very week-end an exhibition in Tiel to commemorate the 60th anniversary of his local philatelic society. In this he exhibited (for the first time) about ninety sheets from his Cameroons collection. A

jury of philatelists from the Netherlands League of Philatelic Societies awarded the exhibit a silver medal which, at 'District' level qualifies it for entry to the national exhibition. It was also judged to be 'best in the exhibition' out of the first time entrants.

After the exhibition closed, I was able to have dinner with Dr. Schelling and his family. All in all, a most rewarding day! I hope that some day Dr. Schelling will be able to join our Circle at a formal London meeting when Cameroons is on the agenda.

I would remind members that Dr. Schelling is, in

particular, endeavouring to carry out a most detailed study of the *skeleton postmarks of Buea, 1916-23* with their great variety of settings. (He is also studying the unusual postmarks from Kumba and Tinto which I classified as Type II in my paper). Many, but not all, of these are on philatelic covers addressed to Blatter, or

others, in Switzerland. May I appeal again to all members who have any covers (or just complete impressions) of these postmarks to send the fullest description (preferably with photocopies) to Dr. Schelling. He will then publish the results of his study in *Cameo* for the benefit of all members.

THE RIVER GAMBIA IN 1651

J. SACHER

The following is a transcription from a three page manuscript, the first reference of which is dated Feb the 26th 1651.

Jillifree
Tankrowall

We begone our voyage in the barge on the new discovery in the river of Gambia. We departed from the Shipp dolphin att Gilfree being 14 Leags. Wth in the Barre. Wenesday the 26th att 10 a clock in the fore noon and that night we came to Tancrewale. Wee stay there that night our boate being very leake and the wind against us.

The next morning we proceeded being the 27th day and that night wee came to Gagra where we found our . . . John.

The 28th freyday we tooke out of her that whee put in som and did stopp some of our leakes, after that seeing the Pinos (?) had but little trade I waied anckor with the Pinos and got up to Mangegos where wee arrived on Satterday night be the . . .

First day of March.

The Seconday being Sabath day we rode still and did the duties of the day in the best maner that we could the same the same day at evening the tide presenting and the wind being both for us we sett sayle and

Cashan

The 2nd day Monday we came to Cassom about 12 a clock att noone being some six miles above Mangan.

Sappo

The 4th day in the morning we came to a towne called Sapa on the South Side of the river, these were the . . .iest people and the most reasonable that we mett with all from the shipp to this place our stay was but little amongst thes for the wind presented a faire gaele all though it was in the heate of the day and against tide we sett sayle and wth helpe of our owres we gott to Laman being 50 miles from Cassom.

Isle de Lamain

The 5th Wenesday we waied againe & passed by a towne called Montadore: we came that day to a towne called Brafo where we anckored being highest watter being 24 miles above Laman.

The 6th day in the morning we came to a towne called Lompeton 23 miles above Brafo. The same day att night we anckored being highest watter. We weare then 25 miles above Lompeton. Alle this day we pass noe towne.

The 7th day freyday in the morning we came to a towne called Calaconda and att night we anckored against a towne called Canule being sum 24 miles from the place we last anckored.

The 8th day Satterday in the fore nune we gott to a towne called Shumacorda or more better to be called Coashumacorda being 19 miles above Canule. Thes people were the unreasonablest of alle people that pased by both in beggin and costomes, that they claime of all that pas in boates or Cannoes. Wch wee refused it afterwards understanding that we might passe quicker upon the way on the south side and nothing to be demanded and paid to the King of Shumacorda his costome.

Note

The 9th day Saboth we rid still till night then we got up to Sango a towne being 8 miles above Shamacunda and 4 above to Babeconda wch was the place where the English did inhabit in former time. Thir Sangole was very desiros to goe wth us. We entertained him because he spocke English that we could understand him very well.

We went from thence the 10th day in the morning – And the 11th day tuisday we cam to Sittaterda being 54 miles above Shamacunda.

The 12th of March in the morning wee came to a towne called Sama being on the South side, being 24 miles above Sittaterda. This is the neeres port as the(y) say to Sittigo that from Sittaterda is not above 8 miles. The people of Sama ar all lecherous as they of Sittigo.

Barraconda

On the 13th day in the afternoone we came to Baraconda being 32 miles above Samo. When we came to this greate cittie of Baraconda finding the water very shallow wee thought most convenient to land some of our goods there for the more expedition of our designe above in the River.

The 14th freyday we landed some salt and other good wch I left in the shope a Lecherine only leaving one to see the goods that he bought wch was his desire.

Lat 14:26 The 15th day Saterdag we proceeded some 10 miles we mett wth a should rock place that we could not gett cleare of it that night being very darke.

between
Cassam &
Canuby Town

In the morning the 16th we gotte our boate over and being Saboth day we rested. The sametime there came by us a greate marcha(n)t wh dwelt att a towne called Jay (possibly Say) having ben 28 dayes in comming. He had 300 asenegos laden wth cole an Negros cloths and Elephants teeth and other marchandises of the country. He had some 400 slaves wth him. He stopped by the River side some two howers to refresh himself and his men having ben two dayes without water (as they tould us) having many sick amongst them. Selakõtomba for soe was his name that was Cheeffect was very ill so he tooke his journey for Baraconda in the afternoone and we ours in the evening up the River meeting often with showles that we weare all faine to goe over bord often in a day.

The 17th & 18th day wee had not many lets (?) we gott that day some 36 milles them two days. The 19th day in the morning we rowed by a greate River leving it on the south side being as our Blacke towld us little inferior to the River of Gambia. This River doth the King of Cantere and the great King at Tenda called Cabovevin. His territories ar very large and many great cities governed under him by vice kings of Tenda and lying 22 miles fro Tenda Settaoma and many others up in the contry.

After we passed this River being sum 80 miles we were very much troubled with shoulde watter so that we unladed our Barge whoely and in part . . . we gott the place that Capt Lobson called St. Johns Fort (or Wort) where we arrived the 27th day att 10 att night. Being something troubled wth sea horses in many places there was one that carried away a peece of our smale boates steame.

Latd 12:35 The 28th day freyday we proceeded and after some howets time it impossible to proceed farther wth our greate boate.

GOLD COAST: MORE ON THE 1889 PROVISIONAL

P. R. NEWROTH

In 'Cameo' Volume 2, Number 7, I reported a "double strike" of the provisional overprint on Gold Coast S.G.20. By one of those interesting "chances" that makes philately fascinating, I have since acquired another copy of this "double strike". Both reunited copies are illustrated here; the latest acquisition is on the right and shows a much clearer doubling of all the letters of "ONE PENNY".

Another rewarding feature of this discovery is that the cancellations are both Adjuah (dated September 8, 1889). One might conclude that both examples came from the same sheet of 60 stamps since they

originated from the same post office on the same day. Since the provisional overprint was believed to have been set in a forme of 30, there may have been as many as 30 stamps overprinted twice and showing varying degrees of doubling.

I checked a number of auction catalogues and the only earlier reference to a double strike that I found was in a Harmers of London sale (June 6 and 7, 1978). Lot 123 in that sale included used examples of S.G.20 "one showing slight doubling".

I would be delighted to hear from the purchaser of the above lot or others with examples of this variety.

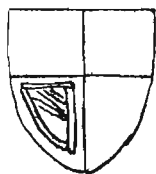


GOLD COAST 1928 CHRISTIANSBORG CASTLE 1d POSTCARD

K. S. SARGEANT

There seem to be two different printings of this 1d postcard (H. & G.11). The SPECIMEN example, which I take to be the first printing has, apparently, five strings on the Irish Harp in the central Coat of Arms. A small space shows below the strings. The colour of the printing is chocolate-brown.

The second printing has only two strings on the Irish Harp with a small space above and below the strings. The Coat of Arms is marginally larger and the colour more a red-brown. A used example is dated 2 NO 1938.



First printing



Later printing

GOLD COAST T.P.O. CHARGES

M. ENSOR

It seemed to emerge from the displays of TPO cancellations at the Study Circle's meeting of 31 March 1984 that mail posted at a West African TPO was liable to a surcharge only in the Gold Coast. The question was asked why this should be, but no answer was forthcoming on that occasion.

I have a theory but, as it is based only on surmise, it could perhaps be put to Cameo's readers to see if they have other theories or, better still, knowledge.

My belief is that it was the policy of the Gold Coast's postal administration to open postal agencies – in many cases run by the station master – more or less as and when a station was brought into use along the developing railway system. This meant that – at least in the eyes of the postal administration – normal postal needs were met along the line of rail by the postal agencies and that the public needed access to a TPO only for posting mail after the local agency had completed its arrangement for the despatch of mail on the train to which the TPO was attached. In effect the TPO was providing a late acceptance service for which the equivalent of a late fee could reasonably be

charged, just as late items to catch a mail boat were charged a late fee at the main post offices on the coast.

This theory would be strengthened if the same additional fee was chargeable for posting in TPOs as for late fee mail at sea ports. In 1898 rules by the Postmaster General introduced a system at Cape Coast by which for a supplementary fee of 3d all postal matter would be accepted within 2 hours after the normal closing of mails. (I do not know of a similar system applied earlier at any other port). It looks to me as if 3d was the additional charge – at least around 1920 – for acceptance by a TPO.

Force would also be added to this theory if it is the case that the other colonies were slower to open agencies and offices at the stopping points on the railway line or river along which their TPOs travelled so that use of the TPO was for much of the public on these routes the normal way of posting mail.

If comments on this piece of speculation are sent to me I should be happy to co-ordinate them into a further note for Cameo.

STAMPS IN USE IN THE GOLD COAST IN 1949

See Cameo 18 for previous note. This material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE territory known as the Gold Coast consists of the Colony in the south; Ashanti in the centre; the Northern Territories, and that part of Togoland which is under United Kingdom Trusteeship. It lies between $3^{\circ} 15'$ W. longitude and $1^{\circ} 12'$ E. longitude, and between latitudes $4^{\circ} 25'$ and $11^{\circ} 10'$ N. Its boundaries are the French Colony of the Ivory Coast on the west, the French Soudan on the north, Togoland under French mandate on the east, and that part of the Atlantic Ocean called the Gulf of Guinea on the south. The total area of the Gold Coast is 91,843 square miles, the population is estimated at 3,571,176.



The currency of the Gold Coast is British West African silver and currency notes, at par with sterling.

There are 90 post offices, and no less than 271 postal agencies. The names of the post offices are:—

Aboso, Aburi, Accra (G.P.O.), Accra Beach, Achimota, Ada, Adeiso, Agono Duakwa, Akrokeri, Akropong Akwahim, Akuse, Anyinam, Apam, Asamankesi, Ashanti Newtown, Asuboi, Atuabo, Awaso, Axim, Bawku, Bekwai, Berekum, Bibiani, Bogoso, Bolgatanga, Bompata, Christiansborg, Cape Coast, Denu, Dodowa, Dunkwa, Efiduasi, Ejisu, Elmina, Enchi, Foso, Half Assini, Ho, Hohoe, Huni Valley, Insu, Juaso, Kade, Kaneshi, Keta, Kete

Krachi, Kibi, Kintampo, Koforidua, Konongo, Kpandu, Kumasi, Kwanyaku, Lawra, Mampong Akwapim, Mampong Ashanti, Mangoase, Mpraeso, Navrongo, Nkawkaw, Nsawam, Nsuta Warsaw, Nyakrom, Obuasi, Oda, Peki, Prano, Prestea, Salaga, Saltpond, Sechere, Sekondi, Shama, Somanya, Sahum, Sunyani, Swedru, Tafo, Takoradi, Takoradi Wharf, Tamale, Tarkwa, Techiman, Wa, Walewale, Wenchi Ashanti, Wiawso, Winnaba, Yaji, and Yendi.

The first issue of Gold Coast stamps appeared in July 1875.

The current series comprises 12 denominations engraved and recess printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd., as follows:—

DENOMINATION	COLOURS	SUBJECT	DATE OF ISSUE
½d.	Green	N.T. Mounted Constable	1.7.48
1d.	Deep blue	Christiansborg Castle	1.7.48
1½d.	Red	Provincial Council Emblem	1.7.48
2d.	Brown	Talking Drums	1.7.48
2½d.	Scarlet and gold	Map of West Africa	1.7.48
3d.	Light blue	Manganese Mine	1.7.48
4d.	Magenta	Lake Bosumtwi	1.7.48
6d.	Black and orange	Cocoa Farmer	1.7.48
1/-	Black and red- orange	Breaking cocoa pods	1.7.48
2/-	Olive and carmine	Trooping the Colour	1.7.48
5/-	Purple and grey	Surf Boats	1.7.48
10/-	Black and dull green	Forest scene	1.7.48

½d. In this design we see a trooper of the Northern Territories Mounted Constabulary, who forms one of the Governor's escort on ceremonial occasions, posed within the archway of Christiansborg Castle. The left-hand border is a particularly fine example of Gold Coast native design.

1d. *Christiansborg Castle, Accra.* This old Danish Castle is the Residence of the Governor of the Gold Coast. The actual Castle was completed in 1790, during the reign of King Christian VII of Denmark (a brother-in-law of King George III) after whom it was named. The view on this stamp, however, is taken from the town side and shows the Governor's Office, the most modern part of the Castle, which was added in 1921.

1½d. *The Emblem of the Joint Provincial Council of Paramount Chiefs* is depicted here on a small carpet. The stool is the symbol of chiefly office. The three State Swords laid unsheathed on the Stool represent the three Provinces, the Eastern Province, the Western Province and the Central Province, which existed at the time of the inauguration of the Joint Provincial Council. Lying in front of the Stool is a chain of three links symbolic of the binding force that now links the three Provinces together.

2d. *The Talking Drums* of Africa are as famous as they are unique. On this stamp the drummer is shown behind two enormous drums each of which is supported by two legs. The left-hand border depicts another beautiful example of native design.

2½d. *Map showing the position of the Gold Coast.* It shows the whole of the West Coast of Africa from the Gambia to Nigeria (including the Gulf of Guinea), the Gold Coast itself being appropriately coloured. This denomination is used for all letters sent to Commonwealth countries by surface mail.

3d. *Manganese Mine.* This shows a train loaded with manganese leaving the mine workings at Nsuta for Takoradi, at which port it will be loaded into ships. This is the stamp used for all letters sent by surface mail to foreign destinations.

4d. *Lake Bosumtwi.* This is the sacred or "Fetish" lake of Ashanti on which no man may move in a man-made boat: fishermen must use unworked logs in order to fish in it. It is supposed to be bottomless and the level remains constant though no streams run into it. It is in a beautiful setting, surrounded by a bowl of hills. The colour (magenta) of this value has remained unchanged since 1876.

6d. *Cocoa Farmer.* A typical farmer is shown cutting cocoa pods from the tree with a knife and the curious formation of the pods is clearly marked. There is also a panel of cocoa pods

and leaves at the right-hand side of the vignette. Many of the pods are of the same yellow colour as this stamp.

1/- *Breaking Cocoa Pods*. A farmer is seen here splitting cocoa pods open with a machet in order to extract the beans. He is watched by a woman carrying another market basket full of unopened pods on her head. This is the stamp used for Air Mail letters.

5/- *Surf Boats* are a special feature of life in West Africa where harbours are few and (literally) far between. This view gives a good idea of the difficulties attaching to the delivery and landing of cargoes that must be overcome before any boat can approach a ship in the open roads. There is always the possibility of being drenched by a wave and sometimes boats are actually capsized. Between His Majesty's portrait and the duty panel is another of the traditional designs woven into local cloths.

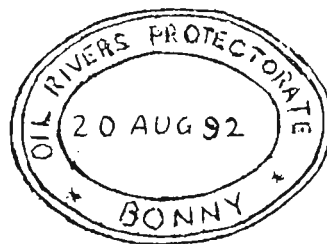
10/- *Forest Scene*. A typical forest view with a magnificent old tree in the foreground. In the distance is glimpsed the outline of some hills. The corrugations in the laterite road show that it is the dry season.

Each of these stamps also bears a medallion portrait of His Majesty, King George VI, engraved from a photograph taken by Dorothy Wilding (Portraits), Ltd.

J.J.M.

OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE – BONNY

J. SACHER



The last Carson sale in October 1983 contained a torn cover to Glasgow bearing a GB 2½d cancelled as above on 20 AUG 92" in violet. This is earlier by over a month than those recorded in the bulletin. It passed through the packet letter office at Liverpool on 11 OC 92.

NIGER TERRITORIES

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

J. SACHER

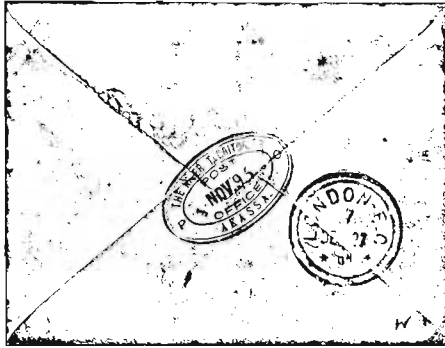
Akassa – First Period (see London Philatelist Vol. 91 Number 1069-70 Jan-Feb 1982-p22).

This was the period during which covers bearing adhesive stamps were struck off the stamps with Akassa handstamps and cancelled on receipt in the UK or on passing through Liverpool, or uncanceled to Sierra Leone.

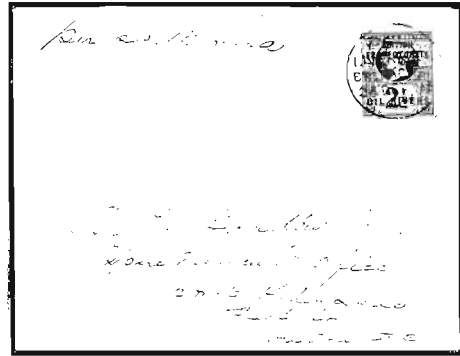
Two such covers dated Akassa Sep. & Nov. 1893 received the Akassa handstamp upon the reverse. Neither has any trace of a day date in the mark.

These are the first that I have seen and I invite members to report others.

The only suggestion as to the reason for this occasional practice, which I can offer, is that the covers may have been received from other points of origin and therefore struck with the Akassa mark upon the back. We know that there was some form of regular or irregular organised postal service from Lokoja in 1890. Perhaps these are also evidence of another organised service.



3d cancelled "F.B.8" in black and marked on the reverse "THE NIGER TERRITORIES PO AKASSA POST OFFICE . . NOV 93" in violet. To London.



"THE NIGER TERRITORIES AKASSA P.O. POST OFFICE . . NOV 93" in violet. To London - 27.12.93. Endorsed "Per S.S. Boma"



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THE NIGER TERRITORIES

J. SACHER

Two interesting items were included in the URRY sale at Phillips on the 24th November 1983.

1. BURUTU – Type 8 (unseriffed) – this occurs on a stampless cover in blue (dated 16.10.97), a colour unrecorded in the bulletin, but also seen on a piece (dated 6.9.97).

2. AKASSA – Type 2a (dated 2.4.93) in violet used on a cover with an OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE 2½d (SG4), cancelled “466” at Liverpool.

This of course is further evidence that GB stamps cancelled at Liverpool were actually applied in the Protectorate.

NORTHERN NIGERIA. PLATE FLAWS ON K.E. VII ISSUES

J. F. INCE

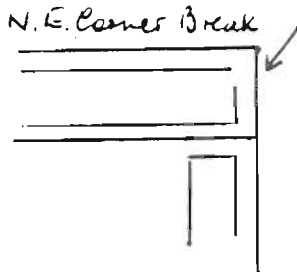
As has occurred elsewhere in the use of this de la Rue Keyplate, frame line breaks are known and the following is a review of the occurrence of these in the material in my possession. In order to build up a more complete picture, I would be glad to hear from other members. All these breaks (except where mentioned) appear to occur solely on printings from Plate 1. Printings 3 and 4 of the 1910-11 issue were from Plate 2 and no breaks have been noted thereon.

The most frequent and apparent of the breaks occur on the inner frame line in the N.E. corner, the less frequent being in the N.W. corner and occurring primarily in the later printings.

The N.E. break is incipient in the 1902 issue, opens into a clear break in the 1905 issue and continues into the first two printings of the 1910-11 issue, by which time other signs of wear on the plate are becoming apparent and thus a new plate was made for the 3rd and 4th printings.

The breaks, both N.E. and N.W., are not constant throughout the panes and the following is a summary from material seen to date:-

1. N.E. BREAK



1902 Issue

An incipient break is apparent in some individual examples of ½d and 1d.

A left-hand pane (minus stamps 48 to 60) of the 2½d value (S.G.13) shows no sign of a break.

1905 Issue

- A. A left-hand pane of the 2d (S.G.22), (minus stamps 47-60) shows the following:-

Row 1 – Stamps	4, 5, 6	– clear break ½mm.
Row 2 – Stamps	10, 11, 12	clear break ¼mm.
Row 3	16, 17, 18	} incipient break decreasing
Row 4	22, 23, 24	
Row 5	28, 29, 30	
Row 6	35, 36	
Row 7	40	

- B. A right-hand pane of the ½d (S.G.20), (minus stamps 1-24) – no sign of break.

A right-hand pane of the 5d (S.G.24) – the first vertical column shows a small break, decreasing, on stamps 1, 7, 13, 19 and 25 i.e. the first stamps in row 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

- C. A right-hand pane of the 6d (S.G.25), (corner block of stamps, rows 1 and 2) – no sign of break.

- D. Individual stamps:-
½d (S.G.20) – clear break
2d (S.G.22) 5d (S.G.24) – incipient break

1910-11 Issue

- A. A left-hand pane of 1d (S.G.29), (minus stamps 1-12 and 16-18) shows the following:-

Stamps in vertical columns 4 and 5, up to stamp 43, show initially a small break which decreases progressively to an incipient break. It is possible that the missing stamps at the top of the pane show a larger break and examples of individual stamps seem to confirm this.

B. Other values

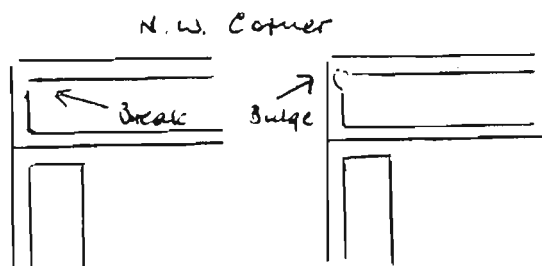
Individual examples show clear breaks in the ½d; 2d; 2½d; 5d; 6d; 1/- and 2/6d and, exceptionally, in the 10/- value. I have yet to see an example of the 5/- value with a break.

Surprisingly, I have a 3d value with this break which value was only printed from Plate 2.

- C. By 1910-11, odd incipient breaks can be found elsewhere on stamps of this issue, especially amongst the lower values, which demonstrated the need for the new plate which was made in 1911.

No attempt has been made to list these in view of their minor significance except for the break in the N.W. corner (see below).

2. N.W. BREAK



This flaw only begins to appear in the 1910-11 issue and never is as large as the N.E. break.

In fact, on some stamps the flaw has a tendency more of a 'bulge' at the junction of the frame lines (see diagrams) although it is represented more by under-inking (i.e. a break) rather than over-inking.

Examples of both these flaws occur on the left-hand pane of the 1d - S.G.29:-

"Break" - on stamps 28, 29, 34, 35
 "Bulge" - on stamps 37, 38, 43, 44

3. DUTY PLATE FLAW 1910-11

I have a 10/- stamp, overprinted 'SPECIMEN', with a clear break in the middle of the letter 'G' of 'NIGERIA'. This may have been caused by the temporary presence of foreign matter on the plate during printing.

AFIKPO, SOUTHERN NIGERIA

J. J. MARTIN

The earliest recorded Afikpo cancellation is 1906 ('The Postmarks of Southern Nigeria' published by the Circle in 1981). Your Editor has submitted to Ray Harris, the Southern Nigeria Editor, a 1d postal stationery card where the stamp has been cancelled by a black double circle 36/26mm diameter with

● PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA ●

AFIKPO' in the outer circle and an unclear seal in the centre.

The card was postally used to England, receiving an OLD CALABAR c.d.s. of 12 DEC 04.

The Afikpo cachet would appear to be a Consular mark of some sort.

NIGERIA. HUGO FLEURY ESSAY

J. J. MARTIN

The Phillips sale held on February 9th 1984 contained some essays by Hugo Fleury (1893-1983), the stamp and banknote designer who worked for Waterlow and Sons for over 51 years. These essays were found in his effects and are believed to have been prepared about 1938.

There was one essay from the West African territories, a 4d Nigerian stamp hand painted in green with a grey surround, stamp size on black card 44 x 37mm. The design appears to be a tin dredger.



THE 1961 DEFINITIVES OF NIGERIA

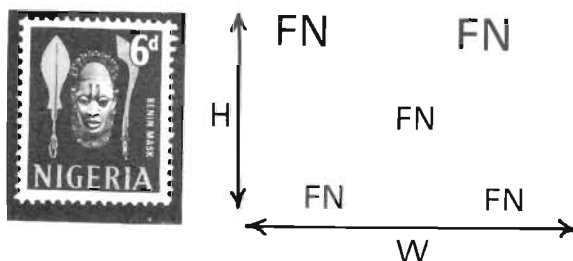
RAY HARRIS

The designs of the first definitive set of independent Nigeria show an excellent attempt to get a lot of detail into a small space, but some of them seem to suffer from the depth of colour used, notably the 1d and the 4d, which tends to block the detail from a casual glance. Nor does the variety of subject and style help the stamps to be recognised as belonging to one set. Inconsistencies are, for example, (i) 'NIGERIA' being sometimes coloured and sometimes white, and on the 1/- being in a different typeface from the rest of the set (ii) the 6d appears in two colours while the rest of the low values are in one (iii) three of the high values include a title while the £1 leaves you to deduce the

subject from the design. Perhaps for these reasons little note seems to have been taken of the stamps themselves and any varieties there might be in the set, apart from the well-known missing colour of the 6d.

If anyone wishes to check the capabilities of a watermark detector I know of no better way than to try to discover the 'FN' watermark used by Nigeria for those stamps printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons between 1960 and 1965. It may be that the difficulty of discovering it has led collectors not to bother, but it does seem strange, even if only a few sheets were in error, that the only reported inverted watermark varieties, SG101Ei, on the £1 definitive, and another,

on the 4d Parliamentary Conference, SG127, are both mine. If they were easier to study there might also be some interest in the fact that measurements between adjacent horizontal rows of 'FN's' vary from stamp to stamp. Only in the margins can the measurements be made easily, and a single stamp of the small definitives may well have only one 'FN' on it. The distance marked H is 28mm on some of the low values and 21mm on some of the high values, a difference that would probably be recognised as a new watermark type if it had occurred on a stamp of Great Britain. The distance marked W varies between 23mm (on low value definitives) and 27mm (on higher values). I do not suggest that there will be consistency in these measurements between different printings of the same stamp, nor even within one printing on present evidence.



None of the stamps appears to be particularly scarce although the 1½d is not as easily found as the rest, chiefly because there would have been little call for that value. Internal rates for letters increased in 2d steps from 3d, postcards were 2d, and printed paper postage went up in 1d steps. Overseas letters cost 4d with increases by 2½d steps, postcards were 2½d and the printed paper rate was 2½d with increases in steps of 1½d. I have not seen a 1½d stamp used on cover or piece so I do not know in what combination it might have been used in normal circumstances.

The low value stamps were printed in sheets of 120 and the high values in sheets of 60. Plate numbers appear below the second stamp from the right at the bottom of the sheet. Only the 1d and 1½d are noted by SG as being printed from two different plates although the 3d certainly also occurs from plate 1A. I suspect that plate numbers 1A and 1B ought to have been recorded for each of the low values. The most famous of the varieties in this issue is the missing yellow on the 6d value. Examples available show that this must have been caused by the ink drying on the plate or running out during the run; a pair on piece, one missing yellow, was sold for £65 in the Danson auction in 1971, and one of our members has a strip of 4 showing progressive loss of yellow. The pair is postmarked by a skeleton mark that appears to be Ilishan 5 . . . 1961: this is an agency coming under Iperu in what was Western Nigeria. At least the ½d, 1d, 2d and 3d values have been seen in imperforate vertical pairs. It is suspected that these were illegally removed from the printers'.

Further use of the same designs occurs on printed postal stationery. The 3d was used for an internal aerogramme and the 6d on the overseas one. There are two distinct varieties of the 6d airletter. The earlier has 'BY AIR MAIL' in a straight line on the front and the stamp is printed with a very coarse screen (there are further variants of this differing in the lengths of the printed lines of writing on the reverse). A later version probably introduced in 1964 uses a much finer screen for the stamp and the airmail etiquette is in a curved scroll. The 3d was also finely reproduced on an imprinted envelope of the same period. Two stamp booklets were produced containing these definitives: the 10/6 contained 12 at 3d, 6 at 1/3; the 2/- contained 6 at 1d and 6 at 3d. There are no easily discernible differences between the stamps in the booklets and those from sheets, although the 3d in my booklets has a bluer shade of green than others I have, suggesting that they were produced at a separate printing.

I suspect that there may be more discoveries to be made about these definitives; I hope this article may give someone the inclination to pursue them.

THE 'EDWARD HIBBERT' ST. HELENA SALE FEBRUARY 1984

The award winning Edward Hibbert collection was offered for sale by auction on 8 February 1984 by Robson Lowe. An unusually crowded room buzzed with excitement for what turned out to be a very competitive sale. A short summary of prices realised appears in the current St. Helena Supplement, but some of the more important items are perhaps worthy of extra comment: (Estimate/Realised)

Lot 503. A George Dunlop entire showing one of only ten known examples of the St. Helena/ Packet Letter oval date stamp. Reference to having been introduced to Napoleon. (£450/475).

Lot 504. A similar entire with the latest recorded St. Helena/ Packet Letter oval date stamp (2 Apr 1819). Reference to Napoleon's frivolous complaints (£850/850).

Lot 511. 1867 cover to Cape of Good Hope with the Post Office/ St. Helena oval date stamp – one of only five known (£50/280).

Lot 512. 1870 cover to Bordeaux with oval 'St. Helena' date stamp. This is the latest date recorded of this handstamp (10 Sept) and one of very few examples struck in black (£100/650).

Lot 532. 1865 EL to Marseilles bearing 2 x 1d + 4d (SG5 & 6). Very few examples of the 4d on cover are known and this is the only cover recorded by E.H. bearing the 1864 1d (£850/1300).

Lot 539. 1881 registered cover with 1s + 4d (SG 14 & 26). Cover repaired but a very early registered item (£400/600).

Lot 541. 1869 cover to Paris with vertical pair of 4d (SG15). This is the only multiple of this stamp recorded on cover (£750/700).

Lot 547. 5s orange + 5s yellow – pair of each used on piece. Described by one previewer as the star item of the sale! (£200/325).

Lot 560. Complete sheet of the CC P14 1s (SG30) in six panes. This stamp was sold off as remainders and is thus very common mint – however, the sheet is no doubt very scarce (£1800/2000).

Lot 570. Heading of 'The St. Helenian' (a weekly newspaper) with 1d adhesive cancelled and addressed to Leeds (£75/350).

Lot 575. 1894 underpaid cover to Sierra Leone with handstamp T/C and 50 in manuscript + 10d representing twice the underpaid postage (£150/800).

Lot 591. Cover to England with 2½d and dated 22 December 1898. Probably carried on the last voyage to leave St. Helena before the postage rate was reduced to 1d (£45/150).

Lots 594-626. Boer War censor covers with various handstamps. Some unusual items include: redirected

pictorial card (£100/300), 1901 cover with Returned/Letter handstamp (£150/350), registered cover to Germany with various h/s including BW1, BW3 and BW4 (£150/230), 1902 cover dated 6 Feb with a very late use of BW5 (£100/190), 1902 cover with BW7 (one of only four known) (£175/600) and two covers each with the latest use of BW6 (24 July 1902) (£100/210 and 50/115). Note BW6 was only in use for ten weeks.

The remainder of the sale included basic stamps and more recent covers. The Badge varieties were well represented (as most sales are these days). The sale concluded with 5 lots of U.P.U. postcards, 8 lots of Ascension and 19 lots of Tristan da Cunha.

At least one person left at the end of the St. Helena section disappointed at not being a successful bidder (yours truly). Most lots were sold, some of which fetched upwards of five times estimate.

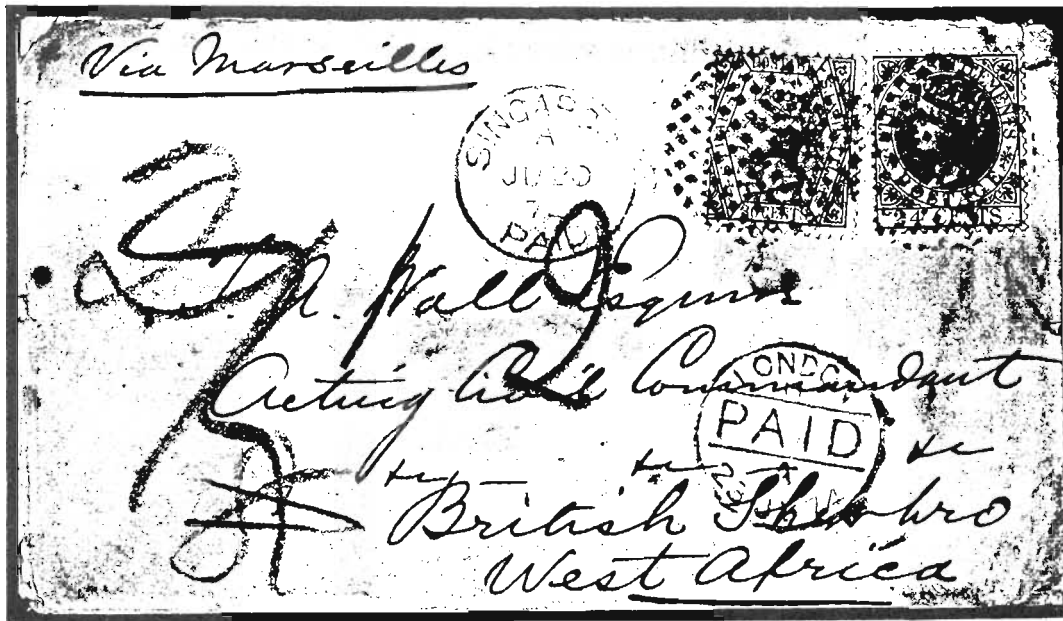
R.B.W.

TWO COVERS FROM SINGAPORE TO SIERRA LEONE

J. SACHER

One of these was described in the Cameo of January 1982. A second also exists sent eighteen months later. They have made an interesting topic of study as originally I thought that rates between Singapore and the United Kingdom had changed in the intervening period.

Working on the basis that the "UNPAID" (cover 2) applied to an internal 1d rate to Sherbro it was possible to arrive at charges as shown below each illustration. The accountancy and charge marks, however, made little sense.



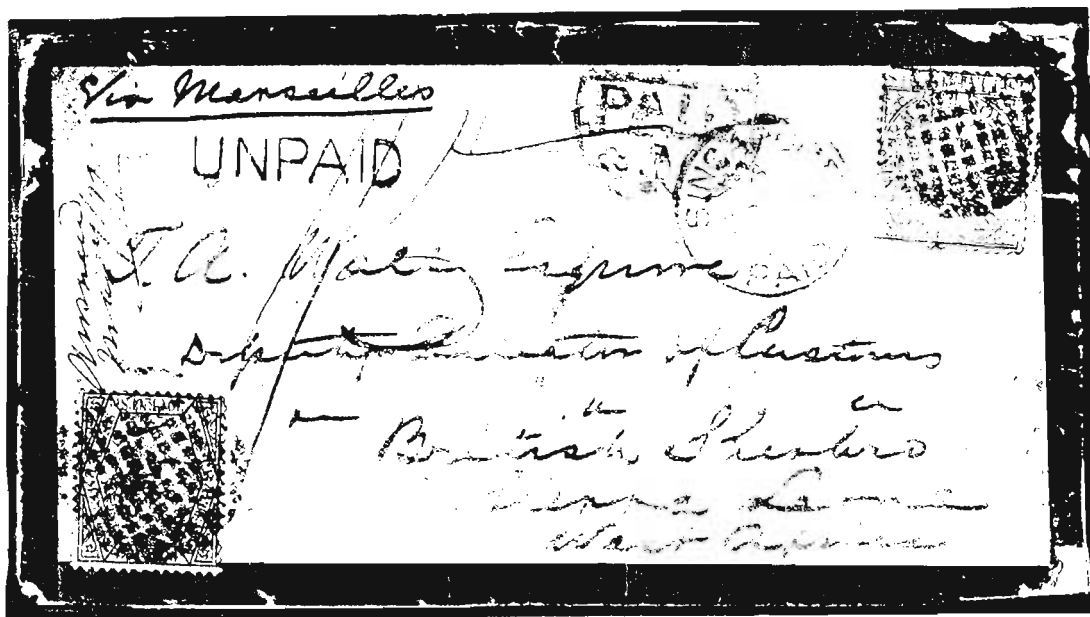
Cover 1

From Singapore – 20.6.1874, via Marseille and London (23.7.74) to Sierra Leone – 8.8.1874. Prepayment of 54 (Straits) cents. Accountancy marks "2/8" (crossed out), "1" and "2" or "12" (the 1 & 2 being in red).

Assuming 2c = 1d

40c Singapore to UK
12c (6d) UK to Sierra Leone
2c (1d) Freetown to Sherbro

54c



Cover 2

From Singapore – 9.10.1875, via Marseille and London (8.11.75) to Sierra Leone – 27.11.1875. Prepayment of 42c. Marked “UNPAID” in black in Freetown. Accountancy or charge marks “1/5” in purple ink, “1” in red “1d” in blue

30c Singapore to UK
 12c (6d) UK to Sierra Leone
 42c

Philip Beale then informed me that the internal 1d was not charged on inward bound mail and I had to rethink the explanation of the charges & marks.

I now believe the “UNPAID” to apply to the UK – Sierra Leone rate, so that Cover 1 was charged 42c to the UK & 12c (6d) to Sierra Leone, hence the “12” in

red, making 54c in all. Cover 2 was paid only to London – i.e. 42c. The fine charged was “1/5” in the purple ink commonly used at Freetown during this period.

Nonetheless it is still hard to see how an “1/5” charge was calculated.

The “2/8” apparently crossed out in the same crayon on Cover 1 may have been a mistake. It appears to have been more than the total charge paid.

Suggestions would be welcomed.

SIERRA LEONE POSTMARKS

P. O. BEALE

It is many years since the late Colin McCaig issued a listing of postmarks to 1930. Since then various improvements to the lists have been recorded by members and I have made a study of the more recent postmarks. I now have a new proposed listing that will include various types not previously illustrated: in all about 100 different types including the TPO's.

Recently I sent photostats of these types to members who are on the Bulletin circulation list and comments are coming in. When I have had comments I propose to send the Editor illustrations of all postmark types and to publish these in Cameo. Meanwhile, I can send

members photostats of all the postmark types on receipt of 50 pence in stamps. I would particularly like to hear from any members who have collections of postmarks from 1930 to 1961. New members may not realise that Mr. Ince, our Librarian, has copies of the publication the Circle issued showing all the West African cancellers that are recorded in the Post Office Impression books.

My next task will be to record all the postal markings and I would appreciate seeing photocopies of any of these that members may have.