

G A M E O



**Journal of the
West Africa Study Circle**

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 8

JULY 1988



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WHOLE NUMBER 28

EDITORIAL

Members will have noted the Cameo now has a coloured cover, intending to match the 1880 6d of Gambia. The cost of this has not come out of funds but has been provided by an anonymous donor.

Your editor has just returned from a visit to Finlandia 88 in Helsinki. This was a quite outstanding exhibition, superbly laid out in a fine hall with plenty of room to move round. West Africa was represented by Philip Beale's Sierra Leone which was a pleasure to be able to study at leisure. A search through the stock of the dealers turned up a St. Helena card and two or three Nigerian covers. Shortly, though, your scribe should be able to give a display of Finnish postal history, mostly acquired in a flea market. That is the trouble with collecting postal history...

When purchasing items from dealers advertising in Cameo, please mention to them that you saw their advert in this Journal. This helps our Advertising Manager.

Annual Subscription:
United Kingdom and Europe £10
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The Circle covers The Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone plus Ascension, Cameroons, St. Helens, Togo and nearby British Postal Agencies.

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 8

CONTENTS

AUCTION REALISATIONS	187
THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT OF BULAMA	188
"U.P.U." SPECIMEN STAMPS	190
BIAFRA. LISTING OF ADHESIVES AND KNOWN VARIETIES	191
SEREKUNDA, GAMBIA	195
GOLD COAST COLONY: PLATE VARIETIES ON QUEEN VICTORIA ISSUES	196
GOLD COAST THE 556 NUMERAL CANCELLER.	203
GOLD COAST. THE ACCURA SEAL	203
GOLD COAST WITH FAKED SEYCHELLES CANCELLATION	203
GOLD COAST: PERFINs.	204
R.A.F. AERIAL SURVEY OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.	204
LAGOS FORGERY	206
LAGOS – THE S.S. ORON.	206
EAST AFRICAN MILITARY CENSOR USED IN NIGERIA	207
NIGERIA G VI FLAW	207
PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA	208
NIGERIA AIRWAYS AIR LETTER SERVICE	208
SUSPICIOUS 'ROYAL AIRFORCE' MARKINGS (SIERRA LEONE).	210
SIERRA LEONE – THE STANLEY GIBBONS PRESTIGE AUCTION.	211
TOGO VARIETIES – GENUINE OR FORGERIES	211
GOLD COAST TYPE 6 CANCELLATIONS	213
SIERRA LEONE, CIVIL CENSORSHIP DURING W.W.1	213

WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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AUCTION REALISATIONS

(Prices realised include buyer's premium where applicable. Estimates in brackets)

Christies Robson Lowe November 10th 1987

Nigeria 1916 (22 Nov.) Cover from Lagos to Zinder bearing Nigeria ½d. and 2d. Cancelled by "Lagos/Southern Nigeria" c.d.s. and French colonies General Issue 50c. violet cancelled on arrival by "Zinder/Territoire Du Niger" c.d.s. (6.12.) showing triangular "T" handstamp adjacent. Rare and appealing internal use between the two territories 366 Sw.F (300). Rate of exchange 2.4 Sw.F. = £1 approx.

Christies Robson Lowe November 24th 1987

Gold Coast 1843 Missionary entire letter from Kumasi to London. On the flap, London "SHIP LETTER" handstamp and arrival date - stamp of 18 Dec. £110 (£100).

Togo 1916 (Apr.) cover to Holland bearing Togo opt. on Gold Coast 2½d. With manuscript cancellation "Ho 27/4/16" and tied by c.d.s. STATION/PALIME, a

further strike on the reverse with Lome transit date-stamp. Also "Passed by Censor/at/Lome (Togo)" handstamp on address panel. Some faults. £242 (£150.)

Stanley Gibbons May 19th 1988

Gold Coast 1876-84 2d green bisected (SG 6a) tied on repaired piece by "556" numeral with red double ring "PAID AT CAPE COAST CASTLE DE 4 83" c.d.s. £253 (£100).

Gold Coast 1876-84 2d quartered (SG 7b) with complete 2d and tied by "556" numerals on piece with Cape Coast Feb 11 84 c.d.s. below £275 (£200).

Gold Coast 1884-91 2d grey bisected (SG 12c) tied on small piece by red Elmina 30 Au. 86 c.d.s. £165 (£100)

Gold Coast c. 1889 manuscript "SPECIMEN" on 1884-91 ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, plus 1889-94 5/- and 10/- £440 (£400).

Gold Coast 1889-94 20/- green and red optd. "SPECIMEN" with broken 'M' variety £165 (£150).

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A Gambia imperforate
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Copt Hall,
Stock,
Near Ingatestone,
Essex CM4 9BA
Telephone: Stock 840777

In 1792 an attempt was made to colonise the Island of Bulama in the Bissagos Islands. The expedition was led by Captain Philip Beaver R.N.

A small society had been formed the previous year under the leadership of H.H. Dalrymple, who had previous experience at Goree, Philip Beaver and four other officers.

The site was one which had been identified nearly a century earlier by the then Director-General of the French Senegal Company. The objectives of the society were cultivation and civilisation of the Africans.

The ships employed were the Calypso of 298 tons, the Hankey of 260 tons, and the sloop Beggars Benison of 34 tons. They departed from the Downs on the 6th April and immediately met their first affliction, discovering aboard a child with smallpox.

Calypso reached Bulama on the 24th May. Within days, out of the 149 persons who had arrived on her, six men had been killed, four wounded and six women and children captured by natives. The Hankey arrived somewhat later.

The Island was ceded by its two kings on the 29th June.

With mounting fever and disillusionment soon by the 29th July out of a total of 275 on both ships 20 had died, 18 had been discharged or had deserted, 147 had sailed to Sierra Leone in the Calypso and 91 remained at Bulama.

Eventually on the 29th November 1793 the *have* circumstances became too much for the six remaining survivors, and they set sail in a cutter for Sierra Leone. Thus ended an attempt to found another British Colony on the Coast of West Africa.

A further attempt to settle the Island was made in 1814.

Illustrated are part of a map and two plans from Philip Beaver's book "African Memorandum relative to an attempt to establish a British Settlement on the Island of Bulama on the western coast of Africa, in the year 1792", published in 1805.

Below is a transcript of a letter also from Philip Beaver to his Brother and Mother dated 23rd November 1792.

Dear James,

It is a common excuse for people not writing to say that they had not time – I never thought it possible for a man to be so employed as not to be able to find time to write a letter, but now I am convinced that it is –

When the Calypso quitted this Island with our discontented and frightened members I was so employed from day light in the morn 'till dark when I jumped fatigued into my hammock that I could not for the world have written – indeed I did more than any man I believe besides myself could have undergone, and the surgeon came seriously to me twice in one week to say that he thought he should neglect his duty if he did not inform me that he thought I should kill myself by continuing my excessive labour –

As the Calypso sailed I found a minute to write to my Mother to say I was well, referring her to Dalrymple for further information – I am just now in the situation I was in just before the Calypso sailing – our Secretary (i.e. Beaver) is deserted, the two members of the Committee are ill and can do nothing and yesterday is the first day I have been able to hold my head up after recovering from a second fever – The ship sails tomorrow morn, and from

yester morn have I been busy in writing to the Trustees and drawing up all our accounts with a memory much impaired by sickness. I now sieze an hour to write to you – for information respecting our proceedings I must refer you to the Trustees – and that you might be present at any general meeting – I have sent you the grant of your land which will entitle you to a place there I suppose – We have been very sickly and are reduced in number one way or another from 87 to 27 – but we have done I think a great deal considering our strength – we have cleaned 12 acres of Ground and built the outside of a Handsome Square,.... proof as high as our head. the Gateways of this I mean to defend by Sambours and when it is complete I shall throw up a Parapit with 2 Bastions to render us formidable to the Country Powers – if I can find time to draw a plan of it before morn I shall send it to the Trustees where you may see it – our Block House stands on a small hill rising immediately over the River and commands I suppose the finest prospect in the world – the Channel here is about a mile and a half across – Our prospect one way terminates just at the mouth of the Rio Grande which is navigable a great way up and the other you lose the river about three miles off widening itself between the woody shores – it would take up more than a quire of paper were I to give you a general like epistle of every occurrence since I left England – that you shall have by word of mouth when I shake you by the hand – suffice it at present to say, that I have been employed without having really had one minute to myself since we left England, that nothing of moment has ever been done but thro' me, this savors of vanity, it is nevertheless true, I continue as busy as ever – our labourers are a worthless set of rascals and our subscribers indolent and unfit for what they have undertaken – I shall remain here so long then 'till the arrival of the next vessel, for I conceive that a second Embarkation will pretty well establish the Colony, that being done I have nothing more to do – but till it is established or till it is given up here I remain – You can scarcely conceive the number of occupations I have. On board every office of a foremast man have I performed from Swabber to Boatswain, as an officer every one from Midshipman to Lord High Admiral, on shore the offices of Shipwright, Master Carpenter, Architect – Engineer, General and Chief Magistrate, Grave Digger and Curate, besides that of Secretary, Storekeeper and Storekeeper's Clerk –*

The ship is going and I must close – I am thank God now in good health and good spirits, your affectionate Brother

P. Beaver

*Hesperclensis,
Island of Bulama,
23rd Nov. 1792*

My dear Madam,

Had it been possible for me to have written to you a long epistle I would, in a short one, I can appraise you of my health and affection – I have been ill, but have now nothing to fear from the climate and the great fatigue I have hitherto undergone is now done away, in a great degree by the Hankeys sailing. Mr. Le Mesurier will inform my Brother or you of all our proceedings – For

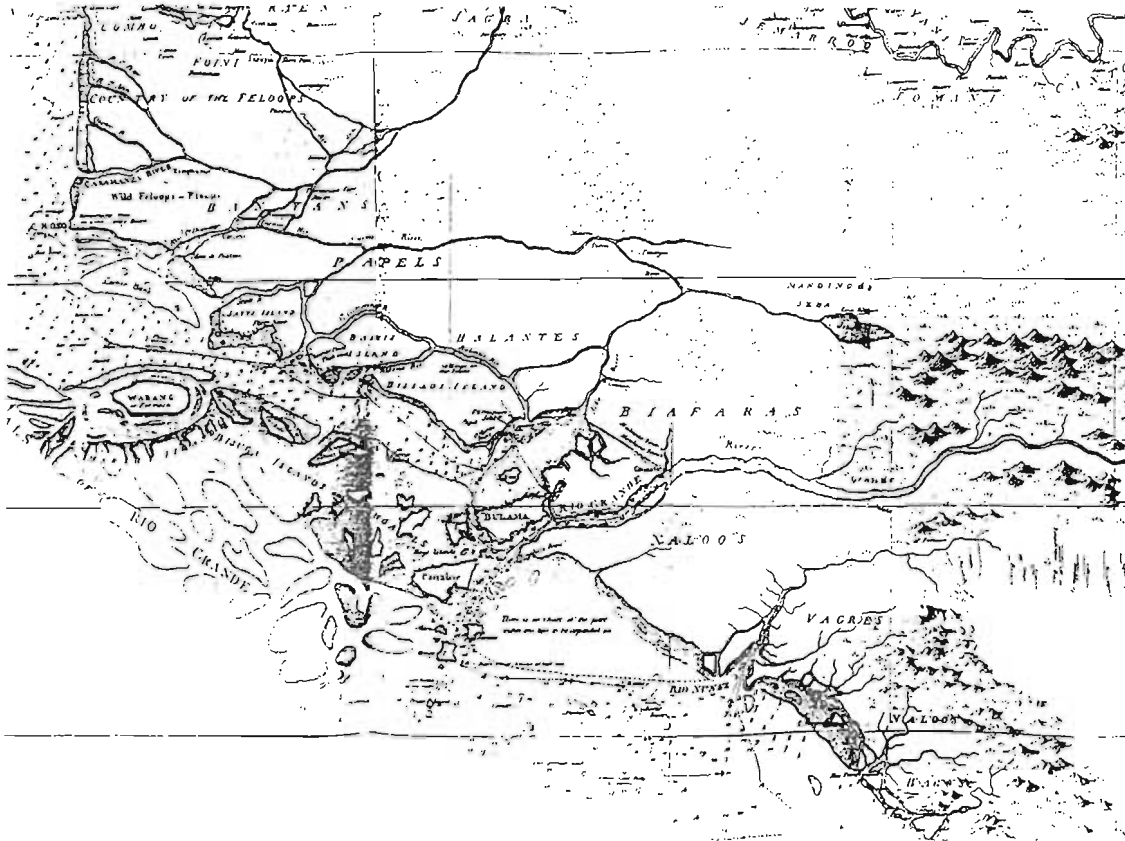
things which the Captain of the ship has let me have I have given an order on you thirty days sight for 13 pounds odd shillings – For Kate I have sent by Mr. Birkhead a specimen of African Taste, in a purse and bracelet – I

hope Chas Smith his wife and nephew are well.

Your affectionate son.

P. Beaver

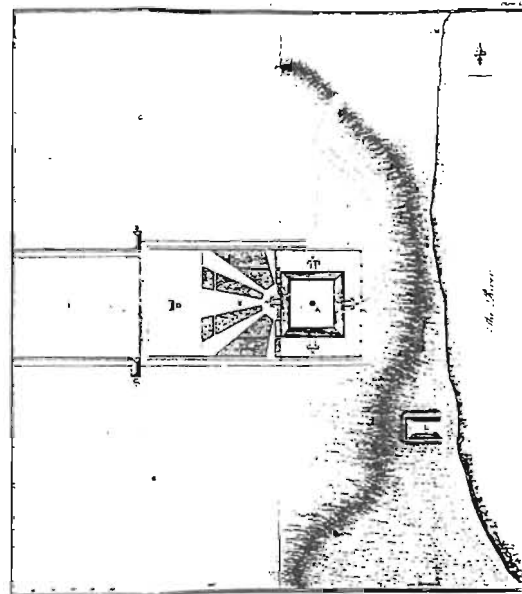
* See plans from book



Elevation Section & Plan of the Block House built on the Island of Bulama by Lieutenant Beaver

EXPLANATION

- A. The block-house.
- B. The north nest of grumetas' houses 34 feet in front, and 21 feet deep, divided into three distinct houses, each house containing two rooms, 10 square feet each.
- C. A similar nest of houses, used latterly as a store-room.
- D. House and inclosure for calves, goats and poultry.
- E. the garden, containing exactly half an acre
- F. the east field, containing 5 acres, 2 roods, and 7 poles.
- G. The N.W. field, each containing 3 acres, 2 roods, and 22 poles.
- H. The S.W. field.
- I. Inclosure for large cattle.
- K. Spring
- L. Pond for cattle.
- M. Landing place



EXPLANATION

The block-house was at first intended to have been surrounded by a fort but that proving beyond our strength, to defend our wide gates, and flank the building, I constructed with loop holes the tambours A.

And in case those should ever be forced, that we might be able to fire down into, and clear them, were constructed also with loop-holes the towers B.

Outside of every tambour, and inside of each gate, was placed one cannon C.

The internal doors were made with a view to easy communication round the block-house, if attacked at a time when, from sickness or mortality, we should have been unable to defend the whole building; as we might, by those means, confine ourselves to either of the store rooms a, which were fitted for close quarters, or if too much reduced for that even, to any one separate room b. To prevent a possibility of the naked natives attempting to scale either the tambours, or the block-house, the whole was defended by spikes three inches long.

a. Store-rooms.

b. Sentlers'-rooms.

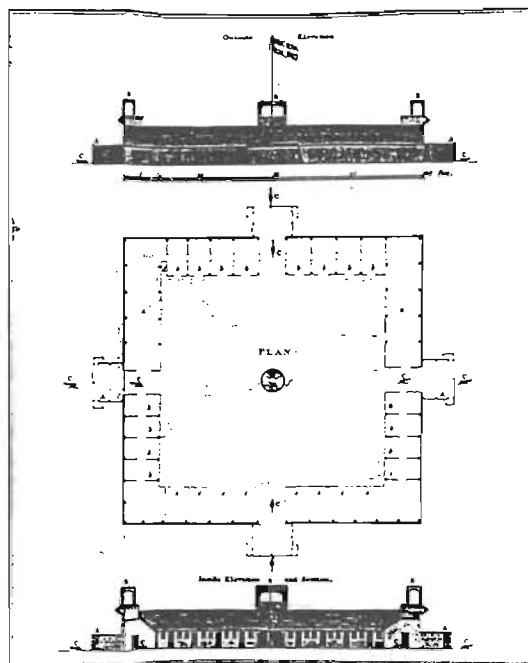
c. Cook-room.

d. Tool-house.

e. Indented rooms on the south side, not finished.

f. The well.

The lower seven feet of the block-house was constructed of logs of from 6 to 9 inches diameter, horizontally spiked to perpendicular posts of from 12 to 14 inches diameter, and the interstices were filled up with mortar. The upper half of the building was boarded with inch plank, and the whole white washed.



Plan of the Ground cleared & enclosed & of the Buildings thereon erected at Bulama by Lieutenant Beaver

'U.P.U. SPECIMEN STAMPS' BY JAMES BENDON

PHILIP BEALE

There are a number of standard books which every serious philatelist needs to possess and this book will be included amongst them. It fills a gap and complements another standard book, 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies' by Marcus Samuel. From it we have a short history of the Universal Postal Union, details of the distribution of Specimen stamps, dates of entry of countries to the Union, numbers of Specimens supplied, the types of Specimen overprints and punctures, and a priced listing of all known Specimens sent to the Union. It is a most useful book, the result of considerable research.

The pricing of sets of stamps differs from those given by Gibbons and, in the case of West African stamps, is more logical, being related to the actual numbers supplied and hence the difficulty of obtaining examples. It is most interesting to learn that the Gambia stamps and stationery sent to Japan in 1888 were cancelled with the Received postmark of Gambia: presumably the Colony was asked to supply some extra Specimens and decided to stamp the examples sent in that way. Under Sierra Leone the Perf 12 1884-91 stamps are listed at

£800 which does properly reflect the great scarcity of the set of four stamps with this perforation and the KG6 definitive set is priced at £250. It is not easy to acquire this set as the 1/3d and the two colour changes were issued after the circulation of the other stamps. Those sets which were issued complete without later additions are usually much easier to acquire than ones which came out in stages, even though the total number for each stamp may be the same. The Gold Coast listing of the 1913-21 stamps is a particularly detailed one, three different Specimens being listed, for example, on the 1/- emerald, Die 1, Die 2 and an abnormal D9 overprint on Die 2. Apart from the overprinted Specimens it is interesting to note stamps like the Niger Coast 1893 and 1894 sets which were supplied as Specimens without overprints. I can thoroughly recommend this book to members.

The author has long been known as the specialist dealer in Specimens and a copy of the book can be obtained from him at PO Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus, £26.50 including post and packing.

BIAFRA – LISTING OF ADHESIVES AND KNOWN VARIETIES

DUDLEY PRESTEDGE

1968 5th February INDEPENDENCE ISSUE Perf. 12.5

SG Typo & Litho, The Mint, Lisbon, Portugal. Sheets 10x10.

- 1 2d Map of Republic Multicoloured.
*Shades. Map, orange-red, vermillion, blue-green, emerald.
Shades. Background, olive-brown, drab, sepia, bistre-brown.
Variety. White line across map due to poor registration.
Variety, Calabar Dot. White dot in Calabar position. Row 8, stamp 1.
Variety. Yellow missing, No sun in map.
- 2 4d Arms, Flag & Date Multicoloured.
Variety. Green omitted. No green in flag.
Variety. Green printed twice. Extra green bar below flag.
Variety. Green printed on black. Apparent missing colour, sun green.
Variety. White flaw at left and touching "R" of Republic.
Variety. Top of "B" of Biafra whitened out. Worn plate.
- 3 1/- Mother & Child Multicoloured.
*Greens suggested as basic colour control.

1968 ?? April PROVISIONAL ISSUE, SOVEREIGN BIAFRA OVERPRINT

Overprinted locally by Government Printer, Enugu, on 172/5 and 177/85 of Nigeria. (Animal issue 1965).

- 4 0.5d Lion & Cubs Black overprint. Quantity 43,000.
Variety. broken tail of o/print – far right of design.
- 5 1d Elephants Black overprint. Quantity 10,800.
5a Variety. Double overprint. 12 known copies?
5b Variety. Missing overprint! One normal & 3 overprints in Traffic Light block of four.
Variety. Blanket print. Various plus thumb/finger prints.
Variety. Basic stamp – weak background, trees missing.
- 6 1.5d Splendid Sunbird Black overprint. Quantity 10,000.
- 7 2d Weaver & Malimbe Black overprint. Quantity 4,200.
Variety. Blanket print. Various plus thumb/finger prints.
- 8 4d Leopards Black overprint. Quantity 4,200.
- 9 6d Saddle-bill Stork Black overprint. Quantity 14,250.
Variety. Blanket print. Full overprint.
- 10 9d Grey Parrots Black overprint. Quantity 30,000
Variety. Basic stamp – weak imprint.
- 11 1/- Blue Breast Kingfisher Black & Red overprint. Quantity 3,000.
- 12 1/3d Crowned Cranes Black & Red overprint. Quantity 6,250.
Variety. Missing red overprint (Arms)
Variety. Missing black o/print (S.Biafra).
Variety. 4 bar o/print. Original misses Nigera, extra by ballpen.
- 13 2/6d Kobs Black & Red overprint. Quantity 20,500.
13a Variety. Missing red overprint (Arms).
- 14 5/- Giraffes Black & Red overprint. On basic chestnut & pale chestnut. Quantity 22,250
(combined types).
14a Variety. Chestnut. Missing red (Arms).
14b Variety. Chestnut. Missing black overprint (S.Biafra) 25 known copies?
- 15 10/- Hippopotamus Black overprint only (no Sovereign Biafra). Quantity 7,000.
Variety. 3 bar o/print. Original misses Nigeria, extra by ballpen.
- 16 £1 Buffalo Black & Red overprint. Quantity 8,000.
16a Variety. Missing black overprint (S.Biafra).
16b Variety. Missing red overprint (Arms).
Variety. Basic stamp. Imprint – "T" of Fievet damaged.

1968 30th May. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE Perf 12.5

SG Litho, The Mint, Lisbon, Portugal. Sheets 10x10. Des. S.Okeke.

17	4d	Flat & Scientist	Multicoloured
18	1/-	Headless Biafran	Multicoloured. Variety. Vertical black flaw under "M" of massacred Row 1, stamp 6.
19	2/6d	Nurse & Refugees	Multicoloured. *Variety. *Green omitted. *This may refer only to 5/- value. Variety. Frame flaw. Small black spur at top of frame. Row 1 stamp 6.
20	5/-	Arms & Banknote	Multicoloured. Variety. Grey omitted. White banknote. Variety. Red omitted. Flag & banknote lettering.
21	10/-	Biafran Orphan	Multicoloured. Variety. Green omitted. White in flag. Variety. "Pool of blood" ? *Existence reported but not confirmed.

1969 30th May. SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE Perf 13x13.5

Litho. Sheets 10x5. Printed in Italy?

35	2d	Chained Child	Multicoloured & yellow-orange frame.
36	4d	Ditto	Multicoloured & red-orange frame.
36a			Variety. Green & orange omitted. Wreath and sun both missing.
37	1/-	Ditto	Multicoloured & new blue.
38	2/6d	Ditto	Multicoloured & emerald
	10/-	Biafran Children	Miniature sheet. Multicoloured. Perforated. All sheets numbered on back. Variety. Simulated perforations. Issued in ratio: 1 Imperf to 10 perf. Colour Proofs. Issued in booklet form. Sheets not numbered.

1969 1st August POPE'S VISIT TO AFRICA Perf. 13x13.5

SG Litho. Sheets 10x5? Printed in Italy.

39	4d	Pope Paul VI & Africa	Multicoloured. Background orange.
40	6d	Ditto	Multicoloured. Background blue.
41	9d	Ditto	Multicoloured. Background green.
42	3/-	Ditto	Multicoloured. Background red. Variety. Background brown. Quantity 2,000 only printed.
	10/-	Pope Paul VI	Miniature sheet. Perforated. Multicoloured. Red background to stamp. Variety. Simulated perforations
	10/-	Ditto	Miniature sheet. Perforated. Multicoloured. Plum background to stamp Variety. Simulated perforations. All sheets numbered on back.
		Specimens	Stamps, all values, overprinted diagonally. Miniature sheet, plum, perforated, red o/print by rubber stamp. Sheets not numbered.
		Plate Proofs	All values 4d to 3/- inclusive. Seen issued as sets in single colours on un gummed paper.
		Colour Proofs	All values 4d to 3/- inclusive. Seen issued as sets in full colours. Imperf. 500 sets issued? Also seen on large sheets of paper with wide margins.

NOTE:

The following items have also been reported and seen.

The 1d, 4d and 9d of the Nigerian animals set overprinted (letter press?) "Republic of Biafra" horizontally across centre of stamps and at top left, "cancelled" applied diagonally by rubber stamp.

There seems little doubt that this was an experimental overprinting which was not adopted.

Slightly larger than a standard adhesive, a boxed cachet in red reading "B, ABA, BIAFRA" in three lines has been seen applied to the Nigerian 3d Oyo carver and 6d mask on cover. This seems to be an experimental cancellation, not adopted, rather than an overprinting exercise and has not been seen on any other adhesives or covers.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, ALTHOUGH CATALOGUED, WERE NEVER ISSUED TO BIAFRAN POST OFFICES AND HAVE NOT PERFORMED ANY LOCAL POSTAL DUTY.

BIAFRA FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968	16b 0.5d + surcharge 5/-	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	ba variety: oprint		Surcharge double
Overprint & surcharge on	bb variety: oprint		Surcharge double, one inverted
animals issue of Nigeria	16c 1d + surcharge £1	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	ca variety: oprint		Surcharge double
	cb variety: oprint		Surcharge double, one inverted
	variety: oprint		£1 omitted.
	variety: back	blanket print	Complete print.
HELP BIAFRAN CHILDREN 1968			
30th May?	22 4d + surcharge 2d	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	a variety: oprint		Overprint inverted
Overprint & surcharge on	23 1/- + surcharge 6d	multicoloured	Overprint, black
First Anniversary issue	variety: oprint		Oprint double, both inverted.
Sheets 5x10?	24 2/6d + surcharge 1/-	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	25 5/- + surcharge 2/6d	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	a variety: oprint		Overprint inverted
	26 10/- + surcharge 2/6d	multicoloured	Overprint, black
	a variety: oprint		Overprint double
BUTTERFLIES & PLANTS	27 4d multicoloured		Various designs
1968 2nd September	28 1/6d multicoloured		Various designs
Litho	29 2/6d multicoloured		Various designs
Sheets 5 x 10, perf 14	30 5/- multicoloured		Various designs
OLYMPIA GAMES 1968	31 4d multicoloured		Overprint, black
	32 1/6d multicoloured	Overprint, black	
Overprint on Butterflies	a variety: oprint		Overprint inverted
& plants issue	33 2/6d multicoloured		Overprint, black
	34 5/- multicoloured		Overprint, black

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT CATALOGUED, WERE NEVER ISSUED TO BIAFRAN POST OFFICES AND HAVE NOT PERFORMED ANY LOCAL POSTAL DUTY

CHRISTMAS 1969 - PEACE ON EARTH etc.	4d multicoloured		Overprint, black
	6d	Overprint, black	
1969 17th December	9d	Overprint, black	
	3/-	Overprint, black	
Overprinted on Pope Paul's visit issue Miniature sheet	£1 multicoloured	& red, perf'd	Value uprated from 10/-
	£1 multicoloured	& plum, perf'd	Value uprated from 10/-
SAVE BIAFRA	2d + surcharge 8d	multicoloured	Black frame, text/scharge red
1970 9th January	variety: oprint		Date text reversed. R5, C1
9th JAN 1970	4d + surcharge 1/4d	multicoloured	Black frame, text/scharge red
	variety: oprint		Date text reversed. R5 C1
Overprinted & surcharged	1/- + surcharge 4/-	multicoloured	Black frame, text/scharge red

on Second Anniversary		variety: oprint		Date text reversed.
issue	2/6d	+surcharge 10/-	multicoloured	R5, C1 Black frame, text/scharge red
HUMAN RIGHTS	6d	+surcharge 10/-	multicoloured	United Nations emblem & s/chg
	9d	+surcharge 10/-	multicoloured	United Nations emblem & s/chg
Overprinted & surcharged on Pope Paul's visit issue.		variety: oprint	both – double	one overprint reversed

BATTLE DATES

The approximate dates marking the fall of major towns.

A listing to assist the study of postmarks.

1967

July 4th	Nsukka
August	Bonny Island (First landing)
September 29th	Enugu
October 4th	Onitsha (First assault – retaken within days)
October 8th	Asaba
October 17th	Calabar

1968

January	Udi
January 19th	Awka
February	Abakaliki
February	Afikpo
March 9th	Oron
March 11th	Uyo
March 25th	Onitsha (Final assault)
April 12th	Ikot Ekpene
May 23rd	Okrika
May 24th	Port Harcourt (Loss of oil & electricity)
September 11th	Oguta
September 18th	Owerri (Retaken June 1969)
September 29th	Obilagu airstrip (The 'Red Cross Airport')
September 30th	Okigwe
October 4th	Aba (Retaken June 1969)

1969

November 2nd	Aba (Final assault)
December 24th	Umuahia

1970

January 9th	Owerri (Final assault)
-------------	------------------------

Notes

The electricity generating station at Afam near Port Harcourt supplied nearly all the electrical requirements of Biafra.

The refinery was also the sole supplier of petroleum.

The Uga airstrip was probably in operation to within days of the end of the war.

The 'Peace Mission' was set up on 10th January, 1970 and comprised:

Dr M.I. Okpara	Political Adviser
Mr N.U. Akpan	Chief Secretary to Government
Maj Gen A.A. Madiebo	Commander, Biafran Army
Gen. C.O. Ojukwu	Head of State.

The above were in an aircraft that left Uli airstrip at 3.00 am on the 11th January 1970.

Those left behind to negotiate the cease fire were:

General P. Efiogbo	Acting Head of State
Wing Commander Ezeilo	Air Force Commander
Captain Fred Anuku	Navy Commander
Brigadier Amadi	Army Commander

SEREKUNDA, GAMBIA

MOGENS RANDRUP

The following information replaces that shown on page 138 of Cameo, whole number 16 and also page 140 of the new Gambia handbook.

Serekunda is a few miles south of Cape St. Mary.

The P.A. is said to have been opened 1.3.49 (closed throughout 1960 due to lack of suitable agent). No. 1 is

usually with date before month.

The new P.O., at the Pipe Line, opened 17.2.1982. Mail for the first few days was sent to Banjul for despatch. The P.O. uses three new postmarks, Types 2, 3 and R1.

Type No.

1



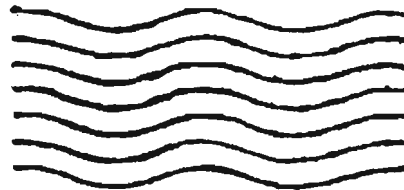
Earliest Date: 13-5-49
Latest Date: 17-12-79
Diameter: 23mm

2



Earliest Date: 18-6-82
Diameter: 27 & 16½mm

3



Earliest Date: 5-4-82
Diameter: 21½mm

R1



Earliest Date: 18-6-82
Diameter: 32x25mm

GOLD COAST COLONY: PLATE VARIETIES ON QUEEN VICTORIA ISSUES

PETER NEWROTH AND JEREMY MARTIN

In the course of preparing the Study Circle's definitive book on the postage stamps and postal history of Gold Coast Colony, a number of articles will be published in *Cameo*. This article briefly outlines present knowledge of plate varieties on Queen Victoria issues in order to extend information and to encourage further study. Circle members are encouraged to carefully examine their material so that additional information can be brought forward for incorporation in the text of the Gold

Coast book. Also, additional references to varieties reported in auction sale material or other publications would be gratefully received.

The scope of this article is limited to the Queen Victoria issues (1875-1902) and addresses the constant varieties relating to each of three elements of their printing by typography; the head plates, the duty plates and the overprint plates for provisional issues.

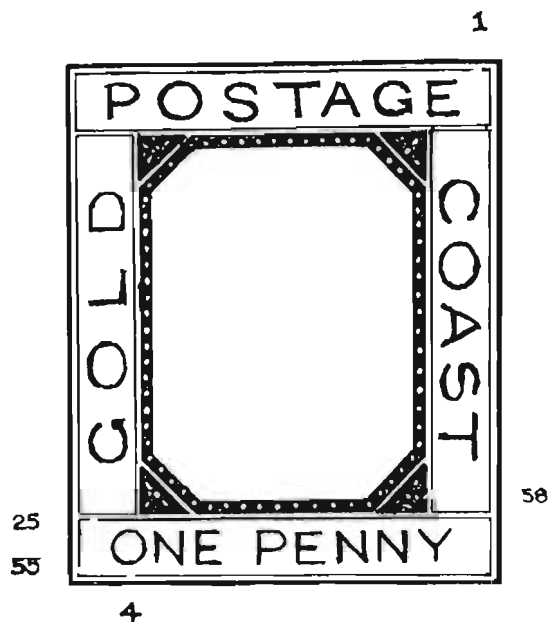
I. THE GOLD COAST POSTAGE ISSUES (1875-1898)

	①		①		
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
	①		①		

a) Head Plate

Two head plates were used for printings of the first Gold Coast postage stamp design, the first plate (Plate 1) of 60 multiples (six horizontal and ten vertical units) was invoiced by De La Rue on June 8, 1875 (see Figure 1). By May, 1892 this plate had been recorded by De La Rue to have made 58,000 impressions and was "unfit for further use". A new plate (Plate 2), also of 60 multiples, was invoiced on September 2, 1892 and

presumably was first used in the printings invoiced on October 17, 1892. These plates are distinguished by the corresponding marginal plate numbers and the presence of a "Jubilee" line bordering Plate 2. constant varieties have been recorded and seen only from head plate 1. Agabeg (1960) reported five head plate flaws on Plate 1 stamps in positions 1,4,25,55 and 58.



(Figure 2)

In an address to the Royal Philatelic Society, London (November 8th 1956) he reported a sixth with the position unidentified. Two additional constant flaws in positions 49 and 54 have been recorded. (One of these may be Agabeg's unidentified position). The lower left hand corner of the "duty box" on stamps from position

49 is broken, usually with a larger gap than the similar flaw in stamps from position 55. The constant flaw in position 54 (Figure 3), also confirmed from large Plate 1 multiples, is a crack in the right hand corner of the outer frame on the bottom of the stamp.

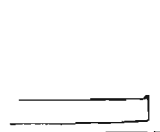


Figure 3

Table I summarises examples identified from the seven positions above.

TABLE I
PLATE I

S.G	DUTY, DATE OF PRINTING	PLATE 1			PLATE 4			PLATE 25			PLATE 49			PLATE 54			PLATE 55			PLATE 58			
		M	U	SP	M	U	SP	M	U	SP	M	U	SP	M	U	SP	M	U	SP	M	U	SP	
		1	1d 1875		✓																		
2	4d 1875	✓	✓																				
3	6d 1875	✓																					
4	½d line		✓								✓												
	comb		✓								✓							?					
5	1d line		✓																				
	comb		✓			✓																	
6	2d line	✓	✓																				
	comb		✓								✓												
7	4d line		✓																				
	comb		✓																				
8	6d line																						
	comb																						
9	½d 1881-83		OCT 83																				
10	1d 1881-83					✓																	
11	½d 1884-98	✓	MAY 88		✓	✓		✓	✓			JULY 96	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	MAY 91
12	1d 1884-97	✓	JULY 86		✓	✓		✓	NOV 90		✓	AUG 94	✓	JULY 92		✓	AUG 96		✓	✓		✓	✓
13	2d 1884-93	✓	✓		✓	AUG 88		✓	JULY 92		✓	✓		✓	JULY 85		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
14	2½d 1891-98		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	JAN 92		✓			✓			✓			✓
15	3d 1889-97	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			JULY 94	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
16	4d 1884-93	✓	FEB 89		✓	JAN 85			JULY 89		✓	✓		✓			✓	AUG 88		✓	MAY 89		
17	6d 1888-98	✓	NOV 94		✓	MAR 89					✓					91		✓			✓		✓
18	1/- 1888-98	✓	✓			✓												✓			✓		✓
19	2/- 1888-98					✓	✓					✓						✓					
20	1d/6d 1889		✓																		✓	✓	

M - Mint; U - Used (earliest date); SP - Specimen

From clearly dated cancelled examples, and the examples of various printings, the following comments may be made regarding each position:

Position 1: Agabeg (1960) reported that this break was present on all printings and this is confirmed by examples found on 1875 printings. The earliest date seen (October 17, 1883) was on S.G.9.

Position 4: Agabeg (1960) indicated that this break developed about 1886-87. Peter has a copy of the Two Shilling (overprinted SPECIMEN and printed in October 1888) showing an incomplete break; the earliest used example seen was dated August 1888.

Position 25: Agabeg (1960) reported that this break was related to 1885-86 printings; the earliest used example seen was dated July 1889.

Position 49: While the earliest dated copy seen was used in January, 1892, examples of this variety were represented on S.G. 5 and 6. This break is difficult to distinguish from that on stamp 55.

Position 54: The earliest dated copy (on SG 13) was used in July 1885.

Position 55: Jeremy has a pane of the ½d. Which shows a weakness in the line which becomes broken later. The recording on SG 5 may be an error. The earliest dated example seen was August 1888.

Position 58: In agreement with Agabeg (1960) no copies have been seen on pre-1884 printings and the earliest dated copy seen was May 1889. In addition to the break in the 'COAST' box frame, there is often a white area below the Queen's head which resembles a fish hook.

Flaws on unidentified positions: A colour dot has been seen below the 'A' of 'POSTAGE' on several examples of each of S.G. 6 and S.G. 7 (Figure 4). This was probably caused by a build-up of foreign matter that persisted through several printings in the 1879-1881 period.

The Cameron Sale (1982), Lot 25, recorded a 'gashed eye' variety of S.G. 13 (adding that only two examples had been recorded). This variety has not been seen by the authors.



Figure 4

b) Duty Plates

One duty plate was used for all printings of head plates 1 and 2. Constant varieties seen by the author in the duties for each value are summarized in Table II. In some cases, more material must be inspected to identify or confirm the positions of varieties. Additional comments on duty plate varieties follow:

ONE PENNY: Cooper (1987) reported the location of a duty variety on S.G. 12 (short 'P' and damaged 'E' of

'PENNY') on position 30 of a large Plate 1 multiple. Figure 5 illustrates a used copy (dated March 18, 1886) with the same characteristics. On a complete Plate 2 sheet, position 30 showed a 'P' nearly normal in length, but the lower horizontal bar of the 'E' was bent downwards, indicating a repair must have been made. Several other examples have been seen with a slightly shortened 'P' with a 'spur' on the base of the upright and a downward bent 'E'.



Figure 5

Jeremy has two examples of SG 12 where the 'Y' of 'PENNY' has a short right arm. Position unknown.

A distorted "O" in "ONE" in a mint copy of S.G. 10 was reported in the Royal Collection (Wilson, 1952).

Peter has another example (Figure 6) which may be the same variety. The plate location of this variety is unknown.



Figure 6

TWO PENCE: A small white area has been seen on the 'W' of "TWO" in two examples of S.G. 6 and three examples of S.G. 13 (one used, dated January 21, 1890). The position is not known except that positions 1 to 6 and 12 may be eliminated, because one example occurred in a block of four.

2 1/2 PENNY: The base of 'Y' in 'PENNY' is shorter than normal on stamp 59 in five examples seen by Peter (Figure 7). The position was determined from a

Plate 2 block. Also, the right hand fork of 'Y' was truncated on a single example from an undetermined position. The duty plate for this value was the only example of Gold Coast duty plates previously used in printings in other Colonies. It was originally invoiced for Dominica on May 16, 1879 and used for the first time in Gold Coast printings on January 16, 1891 (the last Dominica printings presumably had been completed previously).



Figure 7

THREE PENCE: Spowart (1929) reported deformations in duty plate letters, but no plate positions were determined. Peter has located an example with an abnormally long upper bar on the last 'E' of 'THREE' on a Plate 2 block (possible positions 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54 or 60). Position 1 (on a Plate 2 printing) shows a thin horizontal bar on 'T' of 'THREE'. Jeremy has examples with letters all small and all large.

FOUR PENCE: Two examples on Plate 1 printings (one used December, 1890) show damage on the 'F' and 'O' of 'FOUR' but their position is unknown.

SIX PENCE: In addition to the small 'E' variety (Table 2), several examples have been found (S.G. 8 and S.G. 17) with the 'S' flattened and thinned at the base and a thin lower bar on the first 'E' in 'PENCE'. A single

example with the last 'E' in 'PENCE' showing the upper bar bent upward also has been found (S.G. 17, dated September, 1890). The positions of these varieties are unknown.

c) Provisional Overprint (S.G. 20)

The 'ONE PENNY' surcharge on six pence value was reported by Spowart (1929) to have a variety with most of 'PE' and part of the first 'N' of 'PENNY' missing and he assumed it was a temporary fault. Peter has not seen another example of this variety but reported (Newroth, 1984) two examples of double overprints (a third was reported by another Study Circle member).

TABLE 2

Duty Plate Varieties on Key Plates			
Duty Value	Head Plate	Plate Position	Characteristics
Half Penny	1,2 1 2 2	1 1 3 5?	'P' short and base pointed 'P' normal (dated Nov. 1889) 'Y' bent and low 'H' with long first bar
One Penny	1,2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 N/K	18 30 36 38 46 55 55 58 58 N/K	'O' elongated vertically 'P' upright shortened, 'E' of 'PENNY' with bent bar 'E' of 'PENNY' thick with bent lower bar 'Y' with short thin RH bar 'Y' with long thick RH bar 'NNY' bent upward 'NNY' normal 'E' of 'PENNY' thickened below centre bar 'E' normal Short right arm on 'Y'
2 1/2 Penny	2	59	'Y' short at base
Three Pence	2 1	1 1	'T' horizontal bar thin 'T' normal
Six Pence	1,2	13, 19, 25, 31, 37 or 43	Last 'E' short and low

II. UNIVERSAL UNIFIED KEYPLATE (1889-1902)

a) Head Plate

Macrae (1985) reported a break in the left spiral ornament in S.G. 23a, but no other copies have been seen.

b) Duty Plate

Figure 8 illustrates a duty box variety on S.G. 30 reported by Poole (1910). Another example has been seen on a large block from a Plate 3 printing (S.G. 36) on position 43.

Agabeg (1960) reported an example of S.G. 28 with a short 'T' downstroke in 'GOLD COAST' (position 36). This variety was recognised by Robson Lowe in his Encyclopedia, but has not been seen by the author.

c) Provisionals (S.G. 35 and 36)

Various varieties on the 1901 provisionals are known, notably the 'ONE' missing on S.G. 36 on the fourth and ninth rows (positions 24 and 54) of the surcharge [London Philatelist 11, p.45 (1902)]. Sefi (1933) illustrated this variety in row 2 (position 7) of S.G. 35; this example is in a complete pane in the Royal Collection (Wilson 1952) also showing a small 'O' in 'ONE' and defective 'PE' (positions 25 and 43).



Figure 8

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- Easton, J. 1958. The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps. Faber and Faber, Ltd., London.
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- Poole, B.W.H., 1910. The Postage Stamps of the Gold Coast. D. Field, London.
- Sefi, A.J. 1933. Varieties unchronicled, Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known. Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, March, 1. p. 55.
- Spowart, H.A., 1929. The Postage Stamps of the Gold Coast.
- Wilson, J., 1952. The Royal Philatelic Collection. The Dropmere Press Ltd., London.

The composite drawing was prepared by Mike Mackin.

GOLD COAST. THE 556 NUMERAL CANCELLER

Brian Hunt, a member of The Society of Postal Historians, has shown your editor a Jamaica item cancelled with a 556 obliterator. This is on an 1858 1/- rose, perforated 15½x15, no watermark, a fiscal authorised for postage, SG F7

It is definitely not the same as the 556 allocated to

Shelton in Staffordshire. The 556 for Cape Coast was sent out on August 27th 1875 and the measurements seem to correspond to those on the Jamaica stamp.

Theories and/or explanations welcomed.



Sent to Cape Coast August 27th 1875.



GOLD COAST. THE ACCRA SEAL

ROY COOPER

It might not be generally known that a seal (Type 4) was issued for Accra. I have an 1896 registered envelope addressed to W.J. White at the G.P.O., London which has sealing wax over the flap with a clear impression of the oval seal 'POST

OFFICE/ACCRA/GOLD COAST'.

I do not believe that the Accra seal has been recorded as a canceller. Has anyone a record of any of the other seals used on sealing wax?

GOLD COAST WITH FAKED SEYCHELLES CANCELLATION

The previous article on page 147 of the July 1987 Cameo refers.

Sue Hopson writes that she does not have any conclusive evidence that the fakes were done on Mahe (Seychelles). However, it is somewhat strange that Prempeh (ex King, Ashanti) was exiled on Mahe from

1900-1924.

If any members have a cover from Seychelles to the Gold Coast between 11 September 1900 to 12 September 1924, please advise the editor. A photo-copy would be appreciated. All information will be passed to Mrs. Hopson.

GOLD COAST: PERFINS

MICHAEL ENSOR

Until recently I thought that it was only from the first decade of this century that one came across Gold Coast stamps with perfins. Although the discussion in Annex 2 of the WASC King Edward VII study failed to establish just what purpose the 'CANCELLED' perfin of this period served, it emerged that the stamps with perfins, mainly shilling values, were almost certainly not used to prepay postage. It is arguable that the prohibition in the Post Office Ordinance of 1888 on mutilating stamps precluded the postal use of stamps with perfins. Be that as it may, there are no reports of perfin stamps between 1910 and 1938.

The first issue of King George VI is, however, known with the perfin 'KGM' running lengthwise on stamps and apparently postally used. As the cancellation is Konongo I assume that the perfin letters stand for Konongo Gold (Mine or Mining Company). But no other perfins have been reported; so it is not clear whether this practice was legal and, if so, why other organisations needing to hold substantial stocks of stamps did not adopt it in the Gold Coast as elsewhere. To help clarify the position in the eventual Gold Coast handbook, any comments by readers on the above or any additional information will be welcomed by me.

R.A.F. AERIAL SURVEY OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA

ROY LAMBERT

The scheme for the aerial surveying of British Africa was first proposed in 1943, by the Colonial Survey and Geophysical Committee, with the intention that the task should be undertaken by the R.A.F. photographic reconnaissance units.

In 1946 a flight of No. 541 Squadron was sent to Accra, Gold Coast, to begin photographic operation over Gambia, Nigeria, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. This attempt was not a success, due largely to bad weather, and a year later the unit returned home to the U.K. to reform and become the nucleus of No. 82 Squadron.

In April 1947, No. 82 Squadron moved to R.A.F. Station Eastleigh, near Nairobi in Kenya which became the main base for the whole enterprise. The Squadron consisted of seven Lancasters for the photographic work and two Dakotas. When the Squadron moved to Takoradi on the Gold Coast in 1950, six Hastings of Transport Command were called in to transport personnel and stores from Eastleigh, a distance of 3,668 miles.

The whole aerial surveying operation took six years, covering an area of 1,216,000 square miles.

No. 82 Squadron moved from Eastleigh, Kenya, to Takoradi, Gold Coast, between the 10th and 20th September 1950. The last survey from Takoradi took place on the 20th March 1951 and the Squadron was back at Eastleigh by the 31st March 1951, leaving behind a Base Party.

While in the Army, I was stationed at Takoradi during the latter half of the time 82 Squadron was there. On returning to the U.K. in 1952, I discovered that my letters to the U.K. between January and April 1951 bore one of three R.A.F. cachets (see illustrations):-

- i) Framed 'R.A.F. Takoradi/Postal Frank'
- ii) Oval '82 (P.R.) Squadron/Royal Air Force'
- iii) Unframed 'Air Survey Base Party/R.A.F. Takoradi W.Afr.'

(Colours are blue-black or violet)

It would seem that these cachets were used consecutively:

Type i: I have five covers dated between 11.1.51 and 31.1.51

Type ii: Two covers dated 20.3.51 (?) and 22.3.51

Type iii: Ten covers dated between 9.4.51 and 25.5.51

The intervals between the three types are due to some of my mail not being kept; there are no covers from February 1951, which presumably bore either type i or type ii.

While the Squadron was based at Takoradi, cachet types i and ii were used. After moving back to Eastleigh, Nairobi, between 23rd and 31st of March 1951, a base party was left at Takoradi when cachet type iii came into use.

What was the significance of these cachets?

The R.A.F. Museum at Hendon has no record of 82 Squadron having any mail carrying duties, and examination of the Operations Record Books at the P.R.O., Kew, for the Squadron during its stay at Takoradi, likewise makes no mention of any mail being carried by the Lancasters or Dakotas. Enquiries to other possible sources of information have produced no response.

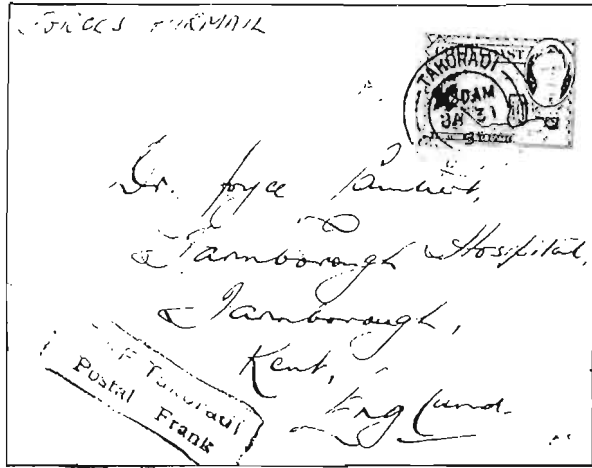
In the absence of any official explanation, I can only offer my own.

While stationed at Takoradi, the R.A.F. Officers of 82 Squadron shared the Army Officers' Mess. It is likely that their respective Orderly Room Staff shared the duty of collecting mail from the Officers' Mess. When it was the turn of the R.A.F. to do the collecting, all mail may well have received a cachet in their Orderly Room before being sent on its way in the usual manner with the civilian mail.

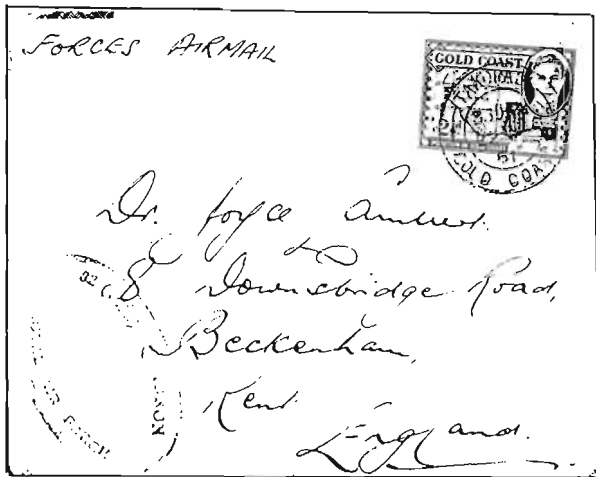
The cachets are interesting but probably of little postal significance. But two other questions do arise. Firstly, did 82 Squadron have similar cachets stamped on its mail when it was stationed at Eastleigh, Nairobi? Secondly, it seems strange that I have seen no other Gold Coast covers with similar cachets in dealers' stocks or mentioned elsewhere. There must surely be quite a number of them somewhere?

It will be seen from the covers illustrated that the postal rate for H.M. Forces was 2½d. This was a concessionary rate and was obtained merely by writing 'Forces Airmail' on the front of the envelope and the sender's name, rank and address on the back. The normal rate was 6d.

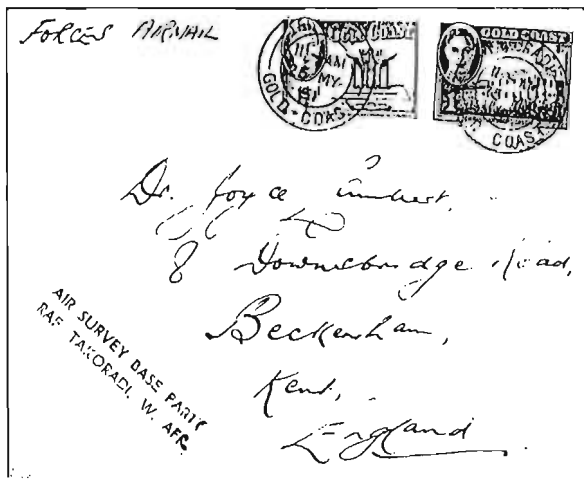
i



ii



iii



Acknowledgement: I should like to thank the R.A.F. Museum, Hendon for sending me an extract from

'Flight' magazine and for other helpful suggestions.

LAGOS FORGERY

JACK INCE



Members should be aware that during the past year two examples have surfaced of the K.E. VII 2½d stamp where the value letters are missing leaving the value tablet blank. This gives the appearance of a perforated plate proof or a printer's error.

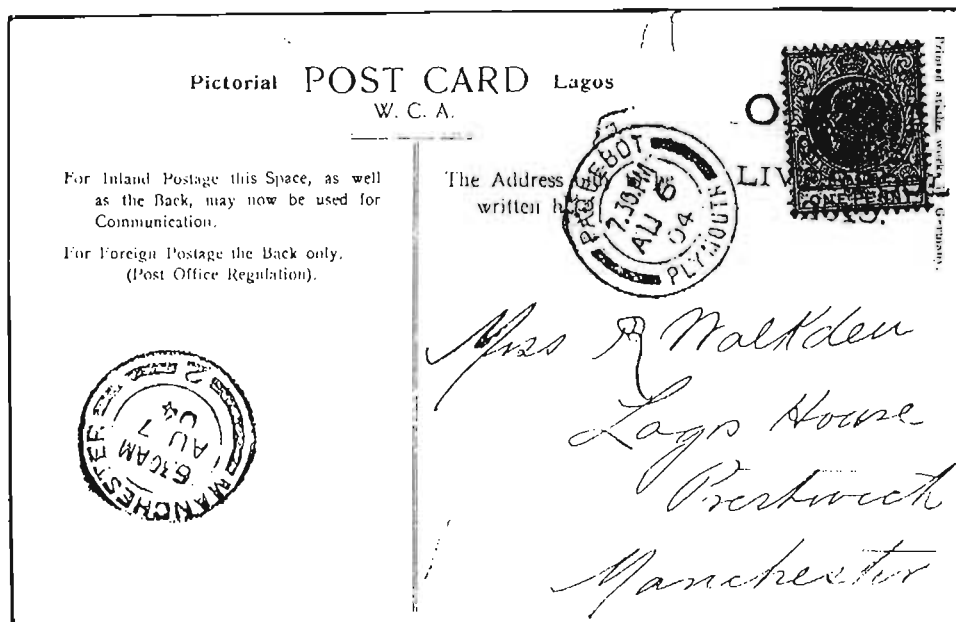
The two stamps, one from the 1904 issue, S.G. 47 and one from the 1904/05 issue, S.G. 57, have been submitted to the Royal Expertising Committee which has confirmed that, in each case, the value has been

chemically removed. There were, of course, no proofs at all for the 1904/05 issue.

Whether these are recent creations or survivors of an earlier attempt at providing a variety is unknown but the appearance of two examples (when no others had been reported – at least in recent years) in such a short space of time should place members on their guard if offered similar material.

LAGOS – THE S.S. ORON

JEREMY MARTIN



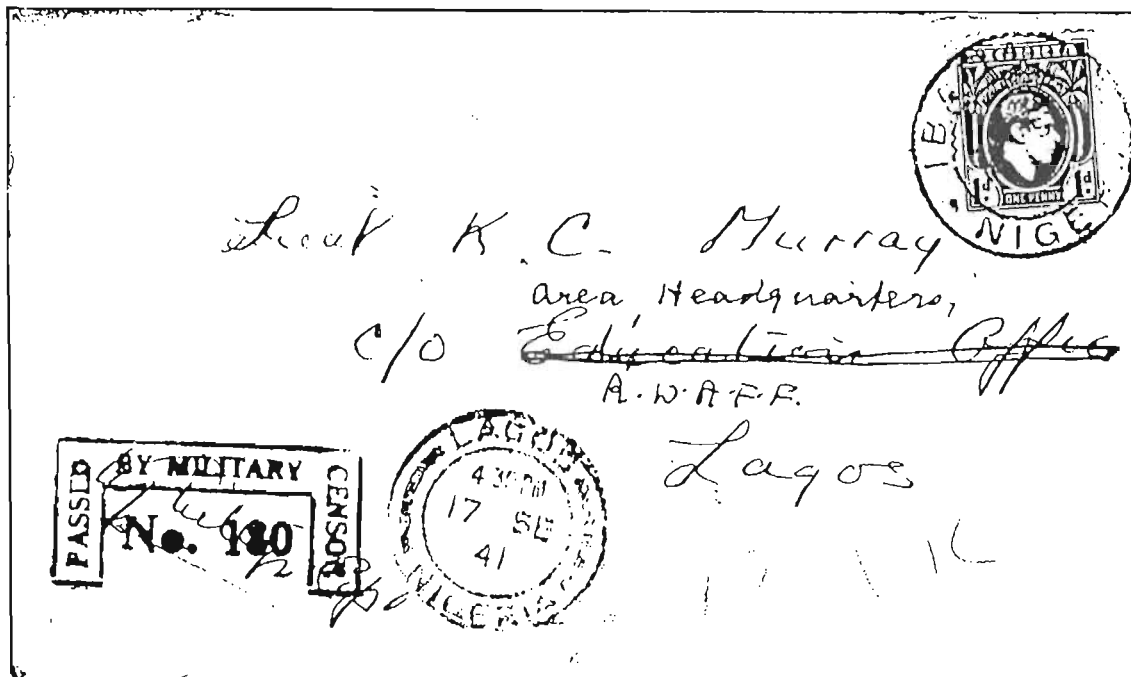
This 1d Lagos on a picture postcard of Lagos has been cancelled by a ship's cachet in violet reading 'ORON/108, 769 s/Liverpool/ 2015' with, alongside, a Plymouth Paquebot mark of August 1904.

The S.S. Oron was built in 1898 for the British and African Steam Navigation Company and sold in 1919.

Jack Ince advises that he has not come across this type of cancellation previously.

EAST AFRICAN MILITARY CENSOR USED IN NIGERIA

ALAN BROWN



The cover shown above records an unusual use of an East African Army censor, No. 180 on an internal letter of Nigeria, from Ibadan to Lagos. The explanation would appear to be that this censor stamp was allocated to a Nigerian unit serving with the 23rd (Nigeria) Infantry Brigade in East Africa. The Nigerian Brigade formed part of the force which advanced through Italian Somaliland into Abyssinia in the spring of 1941, and returned to Nigeria in August 1941.

Although there is no earlier recording of this handstamp in East Africa, it seems most likely that it was taken back to Nigeria and used by a unit stationed at Ibadan in September 1941

NOTE: Mr. Brown is Newsletter editor of the Forces Postal History Society. This article was in the winter 1987 issue and is reproduced here by his kind permission.

NIGERIA GEORGE VI FLAW

DICKON POLLARD

This is on the perf. 13½ 5/- (SG 59a), the November 1946 release. The King's right eye appears to have a cataract in that there is a film over the eye. (Note that this is the left eye looking at the stamp.

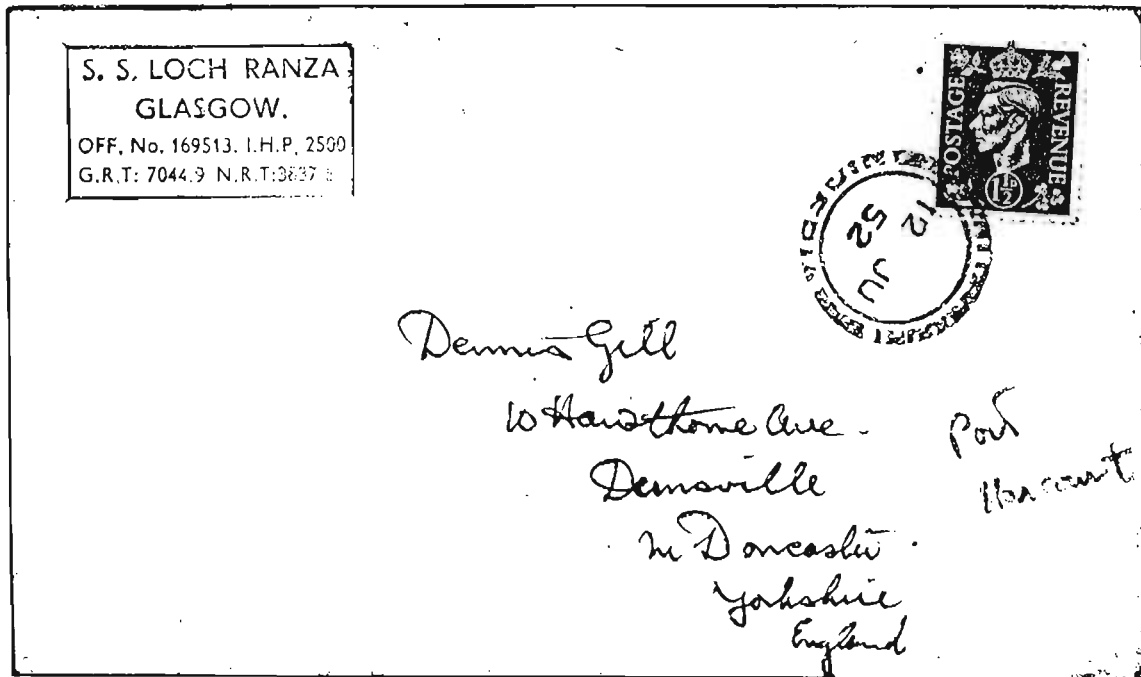
The position is not certain but selvedge is attached to

the left of the stamp so it must be stamp 1 Row not known.

Has anyone else seen the variety? Does it exist on other printings of the 5/-?

PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA

JEREMY MARTIN



This philatelic cover has a 1 1/2d G.B. stamp cancelled by what appears to be a cut down cancellor from Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The dealer from whom it was purchased speculated that it was used in lieu of a

Paquebot mark and said that he had seen a similar cover.

Neville Jones has also seen this cut down cancellor. Has anyone any theories?

NIGERIA AIRWAYS AIR LETTER SERVICE

DON VAN REKEN

Sometime in the 1960s, presumably soon after Independence (but perhaps even earlier), Nigeria Airways began an express air letter service between its many stations and town offices inside Nigeria. This express service was not a door-to-door courier service, such as we see nowadays, but it was a station to station service which expedited the moving of letters and materials outside of normal, and perhaps inefficient, postal services.

The process began by a person taking a letter (or even a large envelope), correctly addressed and with the correct postage stamps attached, to the local Airways office. Here a form, which included the address and the receipt, was issued and a service fee of two

shillings, was collected. With the advent of decimal currency in 1973, the rate became 20k. The original of the receipt was glued to the letter to be carried by the Airways. The letter and the postage stamp were cancelled in purple with a triple circle ring cancel. The outer ring was 41 1/2mm, the inner 28 1/2mm in diameter.

In the outer ring were the words 'NIGERIA AIRWAYS AIR LETTER SERVICE' with 'CANCELLED' horizontally in the centre. Other cancels noted are rectangular 34x36mm and 45x23 1/2mm. Unfortunately they are not clear enough to illustrate.

It is likely that each station had its own cancellor so there should be a great number which can be identified.

SUSPICIOUS 'ROYAL AIR FORCE' MARKINGS

This article appeared in the Forces Postal History Society Newsletter and is reproduced here with the permission of its editor, Alan Brown. Only the Sierra Leone cover is illustrated.

Four covers have recently come to light, all from the same source, with Royal Air Force markings not recorded by the Forces Postal History Society, which we think (together with any other similar covers which may exist) should be viewed with suspicion.

The 'provenance' of the covers is as follows; all four were bought from a French dealer at STAMPEX in 1985. We understand that before this they were in the possession of a French collector, which may be significant in view of the 'Continental' numerals on the 1943 Gibraltar item.

A brief description of the covers is as follows:

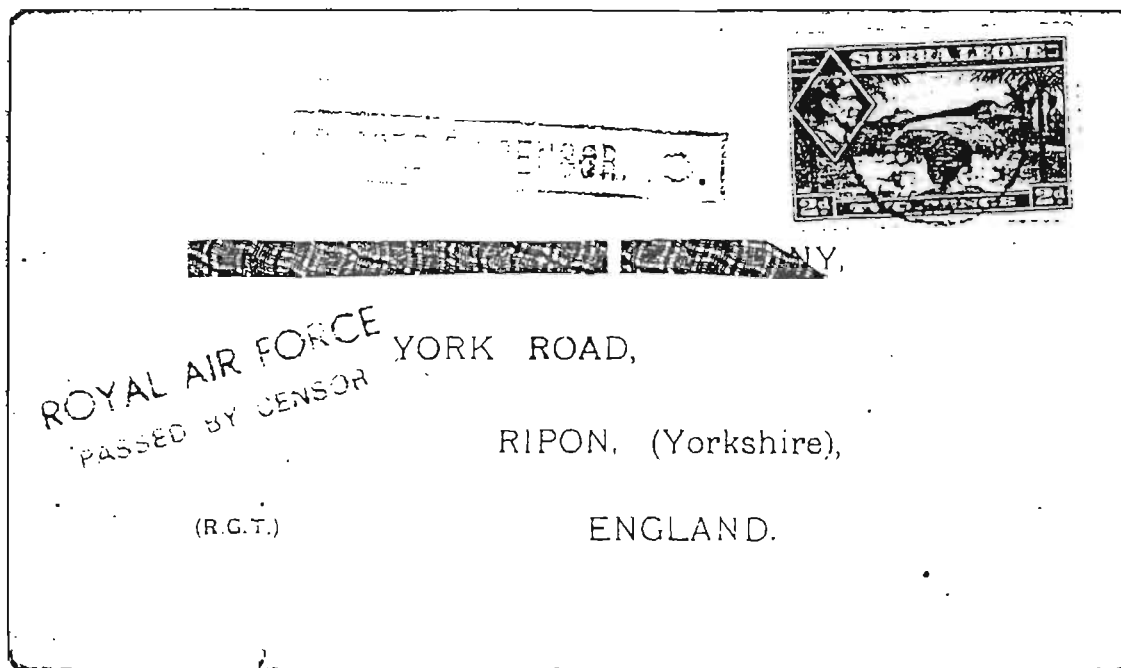
1) Air cover Gibraltar 16 January 1940 to the UK, with handstamp ROYAL AIR FORCE/PASSED BY CENSOR/No. in blue ink, as well as Royal Navy 'tombstone' censor mark.

2) air cover Gibraltar to UK postmarked FPO 475 26 July 1943, with similar ROYAL AIR FORCE/PASSED BY CENSOR/No handstamp in magenta ink as well as type A500 Army censor no. 7433. Censor number in 'Continental' style m.s.

3) Surface mail cover Freetown (Sierra Leone) 30 December 1939 to the UK, with ROYAL AIR FORCE of same dimensions as the Gibraltar items, though the PASSED BY CENSOR is slightly different. Similar blue ink to 1940 Gib. cover.

4) 1948 cover from Iraq to the UK postmarked FPO 171 (Habbaniya). ROYAL AIR FORCE only of same dimensions as in the 1940 Gibraltar mark, and the Sierra Leone mark, in blue ink similar to these.

Points of note are why was it necessary for mail to be censored by both the Army or the Navy and the RAF? Such double inter-service censorship has not been seen by us. No RAF censor stamp in use in 1939-1940 is known still in use in 1943.



Cover 3

How is it that the ROYAL AIR FORCE handstamp used in Iraq in 1948 should be of identical dimensions to that of wartime censor handstamps, and is struck in similar blue ink to two of these?

This article was written by Nick Colley and Ken Sandford of the F.P.H.S. If any W.A.S.C. member has any more examples of these marks, please contact the editor of Cameo.

SIERRA LEONE – THE STANLEY GIBBONS PRESTIGE AUCTION MAY 19th 1988

PHILIP BEALE

The first half of this auction comprised a splendid collection of Sierra Leone with fine covers, stamps and multiples. The majority of the covers sold at over estimate as did the rarer stamps. The only section that did not attract much interest was the extensive one of Proofs and Essays for the 1896 issue, though the blank die Proof without country or value went for £650 plus VAT against an estimate of £200. An 1872 6d perf 12½ on cover fetched £360 and an 1889 cover bearing the 1883 2d comb perf single plus pair realised £420. The last printing of the first type 6d plus a 1/- red brown on cover fetched £320. Among 20th century covers was a fine strike of Boia Yonnie Praveling Post Office used in 1916 sold for £120, while other covers between 1901 and 1914 sold for £55 on average when postmarked outside Freetown. I was pleased to obtain for £60 a cover 'Per Appam' of January 1916, a vessel captured by a German gunboat and taken to the USA with a prize crew. There was a strong section of postal stationery, the material not attracting the attention that its rarity when used deserved.

The overprinted Revenues were in demand, the highlight being a strip of 9 of the Type A of the 2½d on 2/- which went for £7000. A complete setting of 30 of the 2½d on 6d sold for £460.

the early stamps generally went at above estimate

for it is unusual to see them in such good condition, while a study of the KG6 1938 – 44 definitives went for £210 against an estimate of £80. The very rare KG5 £5 used, SG 256, realised £800. In all, this was a most interesting sale for there have been few fine Sierra Leone collections on the market over the past thirty years. The prices I have quoted are exclusive of the Buyer's premium of 10% as are the prices given below. Estimates are in brackets.

Lot 1 1794 letter from St. Vincent to Edinburgh mentioning slaves for Sierra Leone (£400) £420

Lot 27 Block of 4 of the Plate Proof for the first 6d (£180) £250

Lot 49 SG9 4d blue block of 4 (£340) £440

Lot 75 SG24 1d rose gum disturbance fresh (£70) £90

Lot 94 1890 cover to Bathurst Gambia 1d plus 3d with Received Gambia code B postmark (£250) £290

Lot 106 6d perf 12 trial stuck down on card (£1000) £1200

Lot 117 1893 ½d on 1½d CC wmk mint (£700) £700

Lot 124 1893 ditto CA wmk PENNY variety inverted pair (£700) £800

Lot 273 1935 Silver Jubilee 1d to 1/- blocks of four with extra flagstaff mint (£80) £130

Lot 329 1905 Bandajuma postmark on cover (£40) £80.

TOGO VARIETIES – GENUINE OR FORGERIES

A H NAJJAR

For some time I had known that forgeries of the Togo/Anglo-French/Occupation overprints on Gold Coast existed, some in fact, showing the major errors. I trust, therefore, that the following observations, on what I consider are forged overprints, may assist fellow Togo collectors in recognising and distinguishing this dubious type.

The majority of forged overprints generally show the small F variety, (there is no point in forging what is otherwise a cheap stamp). I have, however, also seen the 1d value with inverted overprint and the ½d and 1d values with CCUPATION errors. No doubt other values exist. I have never seen these forgeries (or this type of overprint) in pairs or multiples. Generally and for purpose guidance I have listed them as follows.

Forgery Type 1

Always shows the small F variety

Major distinguishing characteristics of the letters

1. F usually overinked shows less pointed serifs
2. R has a curling foot
3. G of Togo closed, has a square cross bar and no top serif
4. Bases of the 2 C's in OCCUPATION invariably weak
5. First O of Togo has a straight edge at top

Distinguishing characteristics of type

1. Letters are generally smaller and more compact
2. the O's of Togo are wider
3. The inking is not a solid black and generally appears grey, the letters are therefore not solid and there is general see-through
4. The letters lack sharpness and do not have pronounced serifs
5. The stamps are usually toned or damaged

Forgery Type 1a

Shows the no hyphen variety

Very similar to type 1 but

1. the 2 C's of OCCUPATION are complete
2. The R does not necessarily have a curved leg

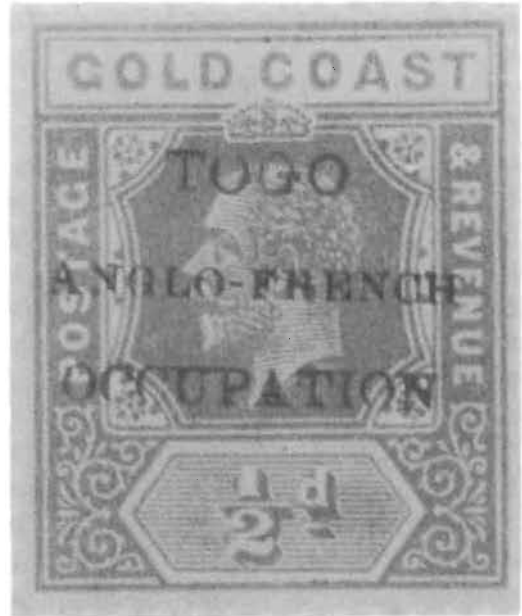
Forgery Type II

Seen on 1d inverted overprint

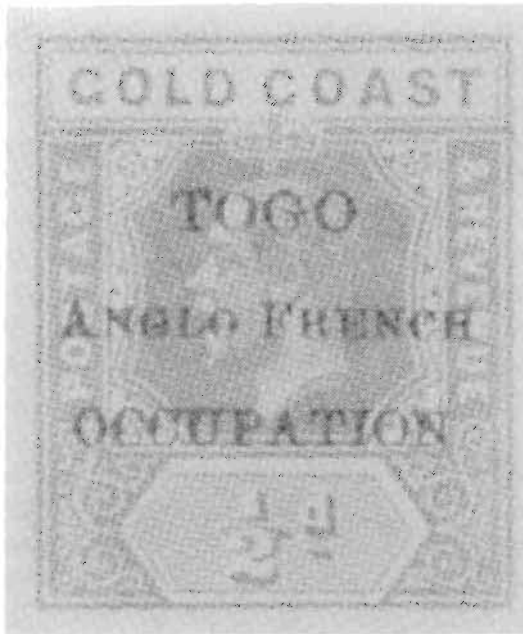
This type is very similar to type 1a, however the 'O's in Togo are more oval and the whole overprint shows smaller and more compact lettering



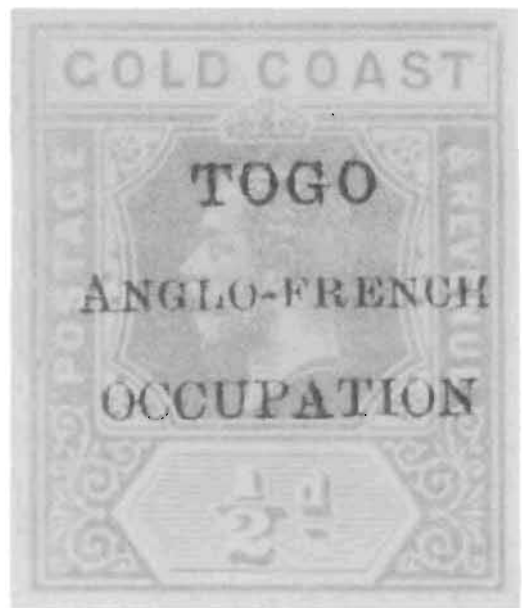
Genuine



Forgery Type 1



Forgery Type 1



Forgery type 1a

The Type 2 forgery is not clear enough to reproduce. Ed.

LATE ENTRIES

GOLD COAST TYPE 6 CANCELLATIONS

ROY COOPER

Cape Coast Type A OC 23 92 (early date?). Inner circle 16.25mm., outer 27mm. No dots between 'CAPE COAST' and 'GOLD COAST'. The lettering differs from the later type, the 'A's' in particular being more narrow. Struck in blue.

I have another example exactly the same dated May 22nd 1894, this time in black.

Cape Coast Type B Dated from 25 August 1898 to 22 October 1901. Outer circle 27mm., inner 17.25mm. Wider letters, particularly the 'A's'. Dots between 'CAPE COAST' and 'GOLD COAST'.

My KUMASI cancels measure 28mm./18mm. and appear to be the same from 1897-98.

There were, therefore, two types of cancellor for Cape Coast as opposed to one type for Kumasi. I do not possess very many of these cancellations so I expect other members will be able to add to the above.



There seem to be two variations of this cancellor.

SIERRA LEONE, CIVIL CENSORSHIP DURING W.W. 1

IAN WARN



This cover was postmarked at Freetown on February 20th 1918 and on the back shows arrival marks of Buenos Aires on May 21st.

The envelope flap is secured with a wax seal of 29mm diameter, & lettered at the edge...Collector of Customs, Sierra Leone'

Opened by Censor before despatch from Freetown. The label was lightly tied on the reverse by an Argentinian datestamp. The handstamp of Censor No.1 is typical of Sierra Leone.

(Ian Warn is a member of the Society of Postal Historians)



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