

C A M E O



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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Specimen copy of the Journal free from the Secretary
Published twice yearly in January and July.
Annual subscription to the Circle £2.

Number 4.

July, 1976.

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EDITORIAL

As I write the temperature has risen above 90^oF for the ninth consecutive day. Too hot to write up album pages and almost too hot to write about stamps.

First, an apology. Some members received their copies of CAMEO 3 with a few missing pages. I hope that everyone now has a complete Journal.

The second instalment on the De La Rue Archives will appear in the next issue. This also applies to Part 4 of Sierra Leone Postal Stationery. In listing Registered Envelopes, we have come across certain problems which have not yet been solved.

Higgins and Gage have just released the second edition of the G section of their Postal Stationery catalogue. This section, of course, includes Gambia and Gold Coast. Wayne Menuz, one of our American members helped to correct and re-price these listings.

I feel that a bibliography, including articles, on our area of West Africa, could be of use to members. Would any member care to tackle one or more sections?

Mr. Beale and I have been in touch with the France and Colonies Philatelic Society with a view to co-operation where our collecting spheres might cross. We will keep members advised of any developments.

AN EARLY LETTER FROM ASCENSIONA. KASPAR

Entire letter written from a Mr. Webb to his Aunt, Miss P.S. Webb at number 5, Atheneum Street, Plymouth, Devon, on February 12th, 1842 and showing a "DUBLIN/Ship Letter" (Robertson type S5) and a PLYMOUTH c. d. s. double arc type of April 28th, 1842; "Dublin Diamond" and a hand struck in red diamond mark showing 3/AP25/42; postmark. and also showing manuscript 8, in black.

cont'd.....

EXACT TRANSCRIPTION:

H. M. S. R. 'Wilberforce'
 Ascension Feb 12TH
 42

My dearest Aunt Penelope,

H. M. S. Albert

H. M. S. Soudan

H. M. S.
 Wilberforce

Capt. William
 Allen Expedition
 Commander.

(Overland Mail
 Route).

It is at length decided that we are to make one more attempt at the civilization of Africa, one more useless endeavour to naturalize a set of senseless brutes who have but one idea in the world and who follow but one interest, that is "self". I am sorry to say the Albert has brought us sad news, many of our fine fellows are gone to their last home, and numbers of officers of all ranks who would and have shewn themselves worthy of a nobler fate, are alas! no more. The unfortunate little Soudan has lost her Captain, Surgeon, Assist. Surgeon, Purser, and a missionary who officiated as Chaplin. The Albert has lost one Lieutenant, who was to have been married poor fellow on his return, one mate, two assistant Surgeons, and her master, together with nearly all her crew; the average N^O of deaths is 2/3 of the whole expedition, of which the happy old Wilberforce, as she is called, has lost but nine. I have now the honour of belonging to the Soudan, as Purser. Commander Ellis, a brother of Mrs. Tobin's commands her. I hope and trust that we shall be successful, I would not go, but I consider it my duty and therefore will not flinch from the Navy.

Captain Allen has recommended me most strongly for promotion and I have no doubt but I shall be made. I have already had the honour of wearing the epaulette for four months and am now receiving about £330 a year as Clerk-in-charge of the Soudan. Capt. Allen fought hard to keep me as Purser of the Wilberforce, but as in the Service Seniority in some cases, is preferred I was superseded by the Senior Clerk: Mr. Toby our first Lieutenant, a fine young man, is obliged to invalid, he came out as a mate, received an acting order and now makes an honourable exit from the "muffin and crumpet society". We shall enter the river about the middle of March, when the flood commences rising. So that next time I write, you will receive the letter by the train on the Timbuctoo & Tangier Railway (sic): This ship

going home to merry old England and taking letters, has made us all feel rather curious I assure you, however we shall be all right again tomorrow. I am glad to hear Pellew is at home again, safe and sound, poor fellow I am afraid he suffered very much; and little Fanny is I suppose at home now, I should like to see them once more, if it is not to be, I bow to the Will of Him, who alone can give and take at pleasure, may he bless and preserve you all my dearest Aunts. I will get a splendid collection of Butterflies when we reach Fernando Po, which I intend for Aunt Fanny, for Aunt Betsy I have some very fine shells and coral and for Aunt Penelope, a very good model of a Chinese Prow, which I purchased for a mere nothing from a china ship. I boarded a ship from China, today and hearing one of the men talking of Capt. Belcher, of the Sulphur, enquired after Rich^d Richardson and found the very man I was talking to had a letter from him directed to Capt. Richardson, he is quite well and from what the sailor, (who was an invalid from the H. M. S. Calliope, I believe) said, in a fair way of being made. Remember me most kindly to Capt. Mrs. & Miss Rochefort & Capt. Lapidge. Tell Aunt Fanny that the Niger is undoubtedly a splendid river but looks as one of our men said "much more finer in them there picturs of our Capen's" that I can answer for; As I have written to all you must not be offended at this short note, if I can I will write from Fernando Po. Give my love to both my Aunts and trusting that when we arrive in England you will come on board again, but this time to see the Wilberforce, the pride of her men and officers. Good bye, God bless you all, and

Believe me,
My dearest Aunt,
Your afft. Nephew
Webb.

A stupid blackfellow
who was entrusted with
all our letters from England
has lost every one! W.
I have made a chart of the river.

NOTES

In July of 1832, Richard Lander and Lieutenant William Allen, with others on an expedition, made a reliable survey of the Niger River. The expedition suffered heavy losses due to the difficult climatic conditions encountered.

The Great Niger Expedition, the main intention of which was to start a colony in Central Africa; Parliament voted £60,000 and it had the support of, amongst others H. R. H. Prince Albert, The Prince Consort and Fowell Buxton and was planned in 1839-40, leaving England early in 1841.

The Expedition consisted of three Steamships - the "Albert", "Wilberforce" and "Soudan". They commenced the ascent of the Niger 20th August, 1841. When they reached Iddah fever broke out amongst the ship's personnel, resulting in the return of the "Wilberforce" and "Soudan".

The "Albert" ascended furthest up the River, reaching Egga, about 320 miles from the coast, on September 28th 1841. The three ships had all cast anchor at Clarnece Cove, Fernando Po by the 17th October, 1841.

The Niger Expedition, would appear, from contemporary accounts, to have been quite laudible in itself and undertaken from the purest and most disinterested motives and probably would have succeeded but for the fatal imprudence committed in the protracted tarry of the vessels in the delta of the Niger, within the sphere of the most deadly climatorial influences.

In the last three paragraphs I have stated known historical facts from publications of the last century and from these, one would assume that the Expedition had been terminated in the latter part of 1841; the ships sailing thence from Fernando Po to Ascension Island for victualling and repairs.

However, this letter which was written by the Purser of the "Wilberforce" just before he joined the "Soudan" as Chief Purser or Clerk-in-charge while all ships were still at Ascension Island and stating the intention of the "Soudan" and, I assume, the "Albert" to make a further attempt on the Niger, some four months later.

Certainly the "Wilberforce" under the command of Captain William Allen returned to England and carried this letter, at least as far as Dublin. Captain Allen was still in the Naval Lists of 1852. Of the "Albert" and "Soudan", their Officers and Crew, alas I have no further information.

Mr. Webb, having been transferred to the "Soudan", remained on Ascension Island when the "Wilberforce" departed for England and, judging from the tone and expression in his letter, he may have felt at the time his days were numbered. Mentioned is his intention to send a letter from Fernando Po, this being their next intended port of call, and writing "you will receive the letter by the train on the Timbuctoo and Tangier Railway". I assume he is referring to the Overland Mail Route across the Sahara following a route attempted by the British at some time in 1841, although that route was to Tripoli at that time.

In a postscript he mentions the loss of all their expected letters from England - could there possibly have been amongst those letters Admiralty Orders concerning the Expedition?

As we can see in the letter, the losses to this Expedition were severe, and we can deduce that a further venture into the Niger would prove fatal, which would explain the dearth of correspondence relating to this period. Hopefully Mr. Webb's next letter, if written, from Fernando Po will come to light, some day.

A VISIT TO THE BANJUL POST OFFICE

P.O. BEALE

An invitation to return to The Gambia for a short visit on the occasion of the centenary of secondary education gave me a delightful and hectic week in which, between engagements, I was able to make two visits to the main Post Office. The Director and his Deputy Director both remembered me and were most helpful in answering my questions.

Since the list published by the Circle of Dies held by the Post Office at 20.11.64 (now out of print) two others have been added for Banjul and Banjul North. The latter Agency was opened on 2.Oct.74. For a short time before the arrival of the Banjul canceller a rubber handstamp was in use reading City of Bathurst renamed Banjul.



The Post Office has a new Received oval canceller and, as this is normally used to identify documents received at the Post Office, I would reckon that was the main purpose of the canceller seen from about 1884 to 1904. I have seen official Gazettes in the Record Office bearing that same Received mark and evidently they had been passed over to Records when not needed by the postal authorities. We know, of course, that the same canceller was used to identify mail posted elsewhere than at Bathurst and received there uncanceled.

I found that it was possible to obtain Commonwealth reply coupons although they were being withdrawn. The registered envelope is still that showing the head of our Queen as, ten years after Independence, there are still stocks to use. There is one airletter size. Although The Gambia has a postcard rate there are no official issues. The Government does issue an attractive series of coloured stampless cards that includes a fine view of The Lady Wright which still serves as the travelling ship post office. There has been discussion about the introduction of a mobile post office but there is not one at present. The currency has changed from sterling to bututs and dalasis, with five dalasis to the pound; as yet there are no postage due handstamps in that currency.

An interesting document I was given was the Post Office Instructions for Sub-Post Offices and Agencies and I was able to buy copies of The Post Office Act of 1966 and of The Stamp Act of the same year, both of which are in force. The latter describes the use of the colourless embossed revenue stamps. A series of the latter has been introduced for the new currency. I found time to visit the Records Office but there is little information on the Post Office available apart from a number of postal reports from the 1930s. The original colonial Blue Books (the annual schedules) are there and these give lists of the establishment since the post

office was set up in 1858: from time to time they mention rates. I am hoping to arrange for a little research to be done locally on our behalf.

Time did not permit any tour of the Post Offices but I did visit the three Banjul agencies. The canceller at Banjul North had been damaged and mail posted there is in fact cancelled at the G.P.O. temporarily. However, the G.P.O. holds the duplicate canceller and kindly obliged me with a few strikes!

The Gambia has produced some delightful stamp issues in both the past and in recent years and I was particularly pleased to see a very pleasant issue for the centenary of the High School. The Gambia has avoided the excesses of some stamp issuing authorities and I can recommend the current issues and postal history as being well worthy of collecting.

THE GAMBIA

F.G. HOWE

The following "finds" during the last year may be of interest to some members:-

1. 1886 4d Cameo sheet of 15, showing upright water mark. (I believe two singles previously recorded by Mr. McCaig). 1st comb perf., but perf through top, not bottom, of sheet. One dot to left, three to right margins. Dark, blackish, brown.
2. G.B. postal stationery envelope (2½d) posted at Kunta-ur and sent to United Africa Co. at Bathurst in 1948. It received the "T" mark and "3d TO PAY", but these were deleted. Cover is marked at bottom, "J.B.N./O.A.S." Was G.B. stationery (or stamps) ever permitted to be used in the Gambia? And if "O.A.S." means "On Active Service", how does this fit with date 1948?
3. Reference Mr. Lewis's admirable listing of postal stationery, I have envelope EP3, KGV 1½d carmine, with SPECIMEN (91mm x 9mm).
4. Mr. Lewis records card CP2 with SPECIMEN 15mm x 2½mm. I have it with SPECIMEN 89 x 8½mm, the same size as on CP5 and CP6.

5. FATTOTO postmark (only "OTO" clear but what else can it be?) dated "32" - later than periods of opening shown in Circle's listings. Day and month not clear, but year is.

GOLD COAST POSTMARKS

K. J. MACRAE

1. Please note, with our apologies, the following corrections to Cameo No. 3:-

p. 44 Type 2 Black - after 'Winnebah' insert 'C'.

p. 45 line 5 - the dates should be "28.6.76 and 22.6.81".

2. Check List Type 5 - Apedua (Apedwa) has not hitherto been listed for this type as our earliest record was Type 16 (18.10.37). As Mr. Sanderson reports having examples of Type 5 in black on a 3d. Q.V. Key Plate (date illegible) and a 1d. K.E. 1903, in neither case apparently with check letter, I shall be glad if members will check their cancels to confirm and let me have their comments. This may be a case where an office was open for a period, closed and then re-opened.

3. Check List Type 5A - as regards the revised note in Cameo No. 3, Mr. Sanderson suggests that as Cape Coast was a large Post Office for those days the letter P might have been used in the Parcels Section. Has anyone any comments - e.g. use on higher value stamps with B or P?

NIGERIAN AIR MAILS 1915 - 1946

W. OSBORNE

In my article in the third edition of "CAMEO", I stated "Cobham and his co-pilot/engineer, McEwan". This should have read "Cowan" and not "McEwan". This mistake was the result of trying to remember names after a period of over forty years. My apologies.

As my article only contained a description of covers in my collection, there were obviously gaps but, with the help of letters and lists kindly sent by members, I am now able to fill a number of these. My thanks are due to Mr. van Reken of the U.S.A., Mr. Disbery, Mr. Ince and Mr. Sanderson.

- 1925 Oct. 27th Cairo - Kano via Aswan, Wadi, Halfa, Khartoum, Obeid, El Fesher, Fort Lamy and Maidugari. Arrived at Kano Nov. 3rd. R.A.F. flight piloted by Cunningham.
- Nov. 12th Kano - Cairo, return flight of the above, arrived at Halwan (Cairo) Nov. 20th.
- Dec. 29th Trial Flight (French) Dakar - Nlamey (Nigeria) via Bamako.
- 1926 Oct. 23rd Bamako - Lokoja (French) cover back-stamped "Lokoja 4/NO/26". 15 covers flown.
- 1931 Nov. 5th Port Harcourt - Buea (Cameroons) via Victoria (Cameroons). Cachet "Internal Airmail 5/10/1931 P. Harcourt". Manuscript "Via Tiko", on cover. Backstamps "Victoria 8-11-31" and "Buea 8 Nov. 31".
- 1938 June Kumasi to Kano, via Accra. Kumasi to Accra by rail, Accra to Lagos via Cotonou (Dahomey) per French "Aeromaritime" Company. Transferred to Imperial Airways at Lagos for Kano.
- 1939 May 2nd Lagos - Takoradi via Accra. Service operated by Elders Colonial Airways.
- 1940 August Britain - West Africa Service by British Airways flying boats.
- 1946 Dec. 20th Lagos - Kano via Port Harcourt, Enugu and Jos by Nigerian Internal Air Services.
-

NIGERIA : CENSORSHIP AND MARKINGS FROM W. W. IID. VAN REKEN

Any consideration of the censor marks found on Nigerian covers of the World War II period must take note of the fact that there was no extensive civilian airmail service to or from Nigeria. Some land surface mails may have gone to or from areas contiguous to Nigeria but no such covers have been seen by the writer. The most developed transportation system in this period was the railroad which has the form of the letter K with the legs at the sea at Lagos and Port Harcourt. Almost all mail collected in Nigeria comes to either of these port cities. Most mail entering or leaving Nigeria is by ship from these cities.

In the postwar era the large English mail and passenger ships 'Apapa' and 'Accra' went East along the coast as far as Lagos and they then retraced their route towards England. Since the harbor at Lagos is much better than that at Port Harcourt, it could be assumed that wartime mails went almost exclusively from Lagos.

But where was the censoring done? J.J. Martin writes, "It is not certain whether mail was censored at several centres with censor numbers allocated to each centre or whether mail was forwarded to certain centres such as Lagos and Calabar where several censor numbers were employed." ¹

My premise, based on covers herewith noted, is that not all censoring was done at Lagos. It is my hope that other facts will come from readers, and that our knowledge will be increased.

The most prominent censor marking is a hexagon with a broad base and a narrow top. A listing of these, with notes, follows. I have used month names, as they appear in cancellations, to avoid confusion between date-writing styles. Dates taken from the Martin list are in brackets.

¹ J. J. Martin, "Nigerian Hexagonal Censor Marks in WWII",
FPHS Newsletter No. 128, September-October 1974.



<u>No.</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>E. k. d.</u>	<u>L. k. d.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
12	red	10Fe40	13Jy41	14 copies; 13 posted at or near Lagos; 1 on incoming mail.
	violet	16Au41	31Au42	4 copies; 2 posted at or near Lagos; 2 from Port Harcourt area.
Probable use: Lagos.				
13	red	24No39	1My41	5 copies; 4 backstamped Lagos; on 2 covers marks are on paper seal.
	violet	(8No40)	28No40	2 copies; backstamped Lagos.
Probable use: Lagos.				
14	red	4De39	28Fe41	27 copies; 27 from Port Harcourt area; 6 backstamped Lagos.
	violet		170c42	1 example, Port Harcourt.
Probable use: Port Harcourt.				
19	red	7Se40		1 example, Cameroun to USA, no Nigeria marks.
Probable use: ?				
20	red	30Se40	14My41	3 covers, Calabar cancels; 1 Lagos b/s
Probable use: Calabar.				
20	violet	(7Jy41)	(7Se42)	from Martin notes.
21	red	(1Ju40)	26Fe41	2 covers; 1 Kano, 1 Sokoto.
	violet		23De41	1 Kano cover.
Probable use: Kano.				
23	violet	12Ap41	15Jy41	2 covers Gombe, backstamped Jos.
Probable use: Jos.				
27	black	19My41	(26Ju41)	1 cover USA to Nigeria.
Probable use: ?				

Another prominent but seemingly not too common censor mark is a rectangle with a diagonal bar touching top and bottom. At the left are the letters PP which is the civilian censor code for Nigeria.² At the right of the diagonal are large numerals.



<u>Number</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>E. k. d.</u>	<u>L. k. d.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
PP/12	red	8Jy44		1 cover from Lagos.
PP/17	black	6Fe45	14Mr45	2 covers; 1 from Lagos area.
PP/22	black	30Ju44		1 cover from Lagos.
PP/24	black	-Au44		1 cover from Ife to Congo.

The PP code is also used in a tall eight sided figure enclosing a crown, the word PASSED, and PP with a diagonal and numeral. Often only parts of this are found; this could be a separate device.



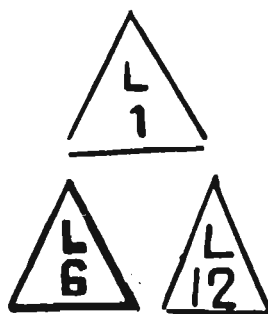
.. /21

PP/11	red	8No43		1 cover: Cameroons to Switzerland.
Probable use: Victoria, Cameroons.				
PP/14	violet			2 copies from Port Harcourt; 1 w. Lagos b/s.
Probable use: Port Harcourt.				
PP/17	black	22my45		from Bukuru; US APO return address.
Possible use: Jos.				
PP/21	red			2 Kano covers; incomplete design.
Possible use: Kano.				

² Wilfred N. Broderick, British Empire Civilian Censor Device Codes of World War II (Private pamphlet, Seattle, Washington 98103) 3pp.

PP/23	red- violet	250c43	5No43	1 cover Lagos-India; 1 cover Lagos area.
	Probable use: Lagos.			
PP/26	black	10No42		1 cover Lagos - Br. West Indies.
	violet	10No42		1 cover Lagos - Egypt.
	Probable use: Lagos.			

One very mysterious marking, which may not be a censor mark, is a small equilateral triangle with a base of 20 mm. Letters are above the numerals.



L 1	red-violet	15Fe42	Lagos: airmail cover.
L 4	violet	31Au42	Abak (= Port Harcourt area).
L 6	red	31Jy41	Lagos - Cameroun; airmail envelope.
	violet	18Au42	Lagos - Egypt: airmail.
L 8	violet	16Au41	Lagos: airmail label + hexagon 12.
L 12	violet	9Ap42	Abak: with a hexagon 12.
?	violet	23Fe43	Port Harcourt area; airmail rate to U. K.

A last civilian censor marking is the very common semi-circle which is very difficult to classify. There is great variety in length (22 - 32 mm.), in height of arc (16 - 20 mm.), and in the size of the word CENSOR (see illustration). The word CENSOR is often missing. At times the letters are plain and bold (Roman?), but letters with serifs are also common. The cancels appear in black as well as in all red or violet colors. The cancels are often

smearred. These marks were in use for most of the period but they are seldom seen in connection with other censor marks. Is it possible that these were in use at local post offices?



After censorship, letters had to be resealed. Cellophane or paper tape with bold black numerals were used on many envelopes. Larger labels (pregummed?) were used on other envelopes. (When a letter has been censored and there is no seal, does this fact indicate that the letter went to a censor in unsealed condition?)

Cellophane tapes:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
5158	1Ap44	violet semicircle; Gboko cancel.
5551		on cover with octagonal crown PP/21.
5646	31Jy43	violet semicircle; Port Harcourt.
5966	1Fe44	violet semicircle; Lagos backstamp.
6718	27Fe45	Bukuru cancel; US APO return address.
8426		on cover with octagonal crown PP/21.
9846	21Se43	violet semicircle; Lagos cancel.
30470		on cover with octagonal crown PP/23.
31259	9Ap45	USA to Nigeria by airmail.
53029	12Jy44	USA to Nigeria by airmail; violet numeral. It is possible that the last two items are USA censor tapes.

Paper label tapes:

2395	7Fe42	red semicircle; IkotAkan to Abab to --.
2566	3Fe42	red semicircle; IkotAkan to Aba; Lagos cancel beneath seal.
2826	5Jy42	red semicircle; Kano.
5273	9My40	no censor mark; Lagos backstamp.

5366	2Ju42	violet semicircle; Etinan to Aba.
6598	8Ju42	black semicircle; Enugu; Lagos backstamp.
6615	9Ju42	no censor mark; origin unknown.
6698	25My42	violet semicircle; Uyo to Aba.
7641	29Ap42	no censor mark; Abak cancel.
8087	15 Au42	Iwo to Ibadan.

Censor labels come in two major formats, namely:

NIGERIA 12
OPENED BY
CENSOR

P.C. 90
OPENED BY EXAMINER

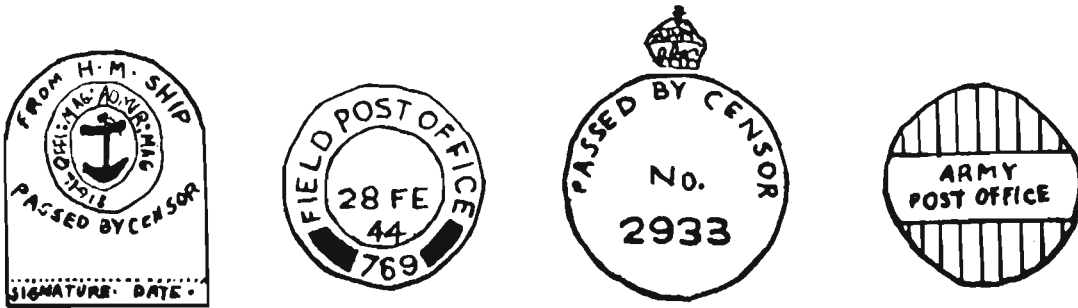
<u>Number</u>	<u>E. k. d.</u>	<u>L. k. d.</u>	<u>Censor mark</u>
12	23Se40	11Mr41	Hexagon 12
13	2Au40	28No40	Hexagon 13
14	7Mr40	28Fe41	Hexagon 14
21		26Fe41	Hexagon 21
23		15Jy41	Hexagon 23
27		13Jy41	Hexagon 12
31		14My41	Hexagon 20
--	16Au41	9Ap42	Hexagon 12
	5Mr40		Hexagon 13
	27Ja41	23De41	Hexagon 21

P.C. 90 labels

31Au42		Hexagon 12
8Jy44		Rectangle PP/12
6Fe45	14Mr45	Rectangle PP/17
30Ju44	7Se44	Rectangle PP/22
27My44		Octagon/crown/PP/14
10No42		Crown PP/26

The complete story of Nigerian censorship during World War II would be incomplete without brief mention of the military markings known. The USA had two APO's in operation.³ Number 607 was at Kano from 2No42 to 15Ju45. The 31 mm. cancel with 4 horizontal bars includes the date and the APO number. Number 623 was at Maiduguri from 19Jy43 until 7Ju45. The 34 mm. cancel with 4 horizontal bars also include the date and the APO number. Rectangular U.S. censor marks may appear at the lower left corner.

The British military forces used the usual Field Post Office double circle cancel. Numbers 46, 559, 560, 563, 769, 770, 771, 772, and 773 are known. Censor marks (illustrated) and paper seals are noted on some covers. One naval marking is illustrated.



³ Kevin P. Rogan and Tom McGrath, Locations and assignments U.S. Army Post Offices World War II and later (War Cover Club, 1973) 3rd edition.

EASTERN NIGERIA REVENUE STAMPS

Mr. van Reken sent the Editor a photograph of this revenue stamp, apparently used as a postage stamp.



It is possible that the counter clerk used the wrong canceller. Can any member give details such as printer, date of issue, sheet size and number of stamps in sheet to help Mr. van Reken?

THE SIERRA LEONE "POST OFFICE" OVALS

On 22nd January, 1884, senior Customs Officers at SULYMAH, MANOH SALLJA, COMBRAYMAH and LAVANNAH were appointed to act as Deputy Postmasters at these Customs Stations. SHANGAY followed suit a little later and, excepting Combraymah, these offices have been recognised for their use as cancellers of the undated ovals showing "Post Office" at the top, the name in the middle, and "Sierra Leone" at the foot.

I have for long felt sure that there would have been a similar handstamp for Combraymah and at last an example has been shown to me by our Canadian member, Joe Szeker!

Although the cancellation is in red on a red stamp - the 1884 1d - Colin Graham has been able to take a photograph which shows the oval and .MBRAYM. quite clearly in spite of a second cancellation by the normal "B 31" as illustrated by the accompanying enlargement.

March, 1976

Colin McCaig.



FORGERIES OF THE 1914 ISSUES OF TOGOJ. WILSON

I have recently acquired some most interesting forged stamps, which cast a good deal of doubt as to the origin of some apparently genuine rarities of the 1914 Togo overprints. The background to the finding of these stamps is as follows:-

In 1915, Mr. Lea, a Manchester stamp dealer was approached by a man on leave from West Africa who offered some overprinted German Togo stamps for sale. The regiment serving in Togo at that time was the Lancashire Fusiliers and it was not uncommon for Mr. Lea to be offered stamps in this way.

After purchase, closer examination revealed that the stamps were forged, the overprint having been applied to already used copies of the German stamps. The captured German type C canceller had been used over the original cancellation in an attempt to make the date tie up with the overprint.

Mr. Lea contacted the authorities and the vendor turned out to be a member of the staff of the Accra Government Printing Office who had been seconded to Lome to oversee the overprinting of captured German stamps. This explains why the overprint is of the genuine type used at the time.

The stamps were taken from Mr. Lea (I have the original receipt from the P & T Department of the Gold Coast), and sent to Accra to be used as evidence in the trial of the forger. In 1918, following a request from Mr. Lea, the stamps were returned to him but were further overprinted with the word "FORGED" by the Postmaster General of the Gold Coast. They remained in his possession and, after his death, in his son's, until 1974 when they were sold to me by Mr. Lea junior (a purely relative term since he is in his seventies. . . .) The story behind the forgeries is told as it was to me by Mr. Lea.

The forger evidently took care to make his forgeries of worthwhile interest, the current catalogue value as genuine stamps being in excess of £4300. The actual overprint appears slightly less well defined than the normal crisp appearance of the type, but is of the correct typeface and setting. The forger obviously had access to the captured German type C canceller, since the date slugs have been adjusted to correspond to the original cancellation except that a year has been added, i.e. on the 2M blue, the original

date was 18.6.14 but this has been over stamped 18.6.15. In the case of the 5 pf, the two 10 pf, and the first 20 pf, the original cancellations are of Assahun and Anecho. The forger presumably did not have access to these cancellers, since they were in French hands, but he chose cancelled stamps where the year is missing from the stamp or has been faded out. He made a serious error in the case of the 20 pf, however, since the date of 3.1.14 is still visible.

The word "FORGED" is overprinted in red letters 2mm high and total length $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

I would suggest that those of us collecting Togo stamps now take a close look at our used copies, particularly the "used on small piece" variety like the 20 pf example, for we may be in for some shocks; I do hope not.

John Wilson.

No. S.T./1918.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
GENERAL POST OFFICE,
ACCRA.

16th September, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 23rd July concerning the disposal of seven forged overprinted Togo Stamps, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that the Stamps have now been obtained from the Court files and are enclosed herewith.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Battesworth

for POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

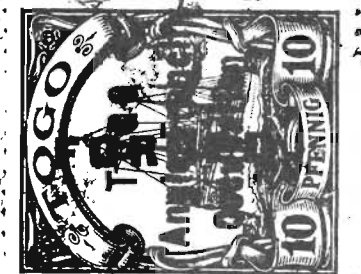
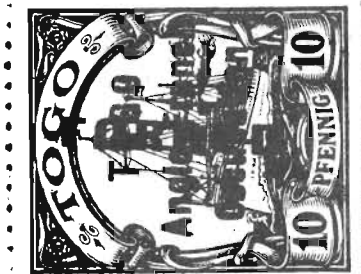
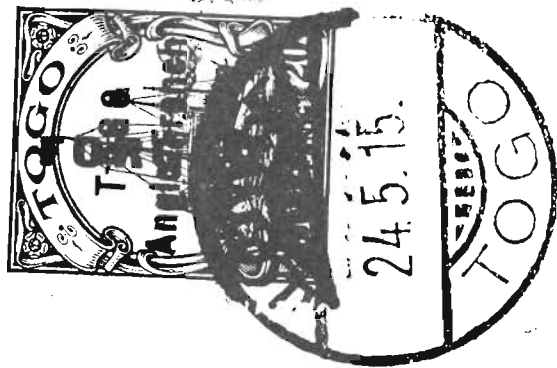
J. E. LEA, ESQRE.,

120. PORTLAND STREET,

R.E.W.

MANCHESTER.

OVERPRINT "FORGED" APPLIED BY AUTHORITY OF THE
POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE GOLD COAST.



B.W.A.S.C. POSTAL AUCTION No. 5.

Lot No. 1	GAMBIA	S.G.1 used pmk. cds. GAMBIA PAID. A., 3 margins.	R £20.00
2	"	S.G.1. used pmk. cds. GAMBIA PAID. B., 3 margins.	R £20.00
3	"	S.G.3a used, close on one margin.	R £30.00
4	"	S.G.3a used, 2 margins.	R £20.00
5	"	S.G.10, 12 (corner perf. missing), 13 & 14 mint.	R £ 4.00
6	"	S.G.13, 15 & 18 used, poor-fair.	R £ 4.00
7	"	S.G.22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33 & 35 mint, fair.	R £ 5.00
8	"	S.G.21 & 30 (bar cancels) 23, 24 & 27 cds's, used, poor-fair.	R £ 2.00
9	"	S.G.32a unused (small thin) & used (poor centering)	R £ 7.00
10	"	S.G.37 - 41, 43 & 44 (corner pulled) mint, fair.	R £ 6.00
11	"	S.G.39, 45, 47, 49, 51 & 54 o/p SPECIMEN	R £10.00
12	"	S.G.45, 47, 48, 49, 58 & 67 (some foxing) mint.	R £ 9.00
13	"	S.G.73, 74, 60, 76, 78 & 81 (damaged corner) mint	R £ 1.50
14	"	S.G.143-146 (1/- value damaged) mint & 143 used.	R £ 1.00
15	"	S.G.150, 154, 156 & 164 fine used cds. GUNJUR.	R £ 1.00
17	"	KE VII. Postal Stationery Post Card o/p SPECIMEN (H&G 7)	R £ 2.00
18	"	KG V " Reply Post Card unused (H&G 10)	R £ 1.50
19	"	QE II " Reg. Env. used 1965 (H&G 6a)	R £ 1.50
20	"	QE II Aerogramme unused (H&G 5)	R 60p
21	"	Postmarks 1949-50 on pieces. BASSE, GEORGETOWN, KANR, KUNTAR-UR, MACARTHY ISLAND (2) TPO No. 2 (2) fair	R 80p
22	GHANA	Aerogramme unused (H&G 1)	E 70p
23	GOLD COAST	S.G. 12, 14 & 16 (556 cancel) 13, 18 & 19 cds.	R £ 4.00
24	"	S.G. 25 fiscally used	
25	"	S.G. 44 mint & 45 used.	R £ 3.00
26	"	KE VII 1d on p. p. c. pmk. ACCRA type 12 1903	R £ 1.00
27	"	Unaddressed p. p. c. with KE VII ½d. pmk. MATADI A BORDEAUX L.L. No.3. dated 1913.	E £ 1.00
28	"	Stampless OHMS 'Woodruffe' cover FPO 536. 1944	E £ 1.00
29	"	1957 R. L. Christian cover pmk. CENTRAL TPO No. 1. poor.	E 25p
30	"	1913-23 1/- Die II. o/p SPECIMEN.	E £ 2.00
31	"	KG V Post. Stat. Reg. Env. o/p SPECIMEN (H&G 9) F.	E £ 3.00
32	LAGOS	Small starter collection, mainly used inc. S.G.10, 12, 15, 17-20, 25 & later to 1/- a few minor faults. Stated to Cat £21. 75	R £ 4.00
33	NIGER COAST	1897 S.G. 73 fine mint. Cat. £2.50.	R £ 1.00
34	"	1897 S.G. 94 mint. Cat £10.00	R £ 5.00
35	"	QV. Post. Stat. p. c. unaddressed, pmk. OLD CALABAR DATED No. 29 1894 (H&G 2)	
36	"	QV Post. Stat. p. c. (H&G 3) unused (9 mm tear)	
37	"	QV Reg. Env. (H&G 5) size G. o/p SPECIMEN (toned)	
38	NIGERIA	S.G. 34-41 mint	R £ 2.00
39	"	S.G. 58 (centered right) & 59 mint	R £ 5.00
40	"	S.G. 50 mint corner pair. cat. £3.50	E £ 1.25
41	"	S.G. 50 mint marginal strip of 3. cat £5.25	E £ 1.75
42	"	S.G. 58a corner plate blk. of 6 mint. cat £3.	E £ 1.25
43	"	QE II. Post. Stat. Env. 'Jebba Bridge' (H&G4) unused.	E 50p
44	"	QE II Reg. Env. (H&G 7) size F used 1958.	E 50p
45	"	QE II Reg. Env. (H&G 7a) size H2 used 1958.	E 50p
46	"	ditto.	E 25p
47	"	Kennedy Miniature Sheet. unmounted. MS 149a. cat £2½	R £ 1.00
48	"	Postmarks on 35 pieces, inc. multiples. 1924-8.	R £ 1.00
49	"	ditto.	R £ 1.00
50	"	Postmark Collection in 2 albums, weight 5 lbs. 124 covers, modern.	E £ 2.00
51	"	140 QE II covers, 1957-8, mixed condition.	E 70p
52	"	1st Flight D.C. 8 U.S.A. to Lagos 1961	
53	"	Env. pmk. New York b/s Lagos. Blue cachet.	
54	"	ditto. ditto. Purple cachet.	
55	"	ditto. Air Letter pmk. Boston. Blue cachet.	
56	"	ditto. ditto. Purple cachet.	
57	"	ditto. Post Card pmk. Boston. Purple cachet.	
		S.G. 186 mint corner blk. 4. SG 49 & 49a blks 4 and SG 51 imprint blk 8	

Lot No.	58	"	S.G. 72 100 used copies	
	59	"	ditto.	
	60	"	ditto.	
	61	NIGERIA	1953-7 issue used in Cameroons 102 copies.	R £ 2.00
	62	"	1966 Air Letter from NASA Space Tracking Station Gemini 8 launch. pmk. Kano 16.3.66	
	63	"	ditto. Gemini 11 launch. pmk. Kano 12.9.56.	
	64	SIERRA LEONE	S.G. 3, 4 & 36 mint	R £ 7.00
	65	"	S.G. 2 used B31	R £ 6.00
	66	"	S.G. 48 o/p SPECIMEN, S.G. 42-45, 48 & 50 mint	R £ 4.00
	67	"	S.G. 41-51 mint	R £ 20.00
	68	"	S.G. 96 mint	R £ 3.00
	69	"	S.G. 155-165 mint	R £ 6.00
	70	"	S.G. 168-177 mint	R £ 15.00
	71	"	S.G. 131-143 mint	R £ 4.00
	72	"	S.G. 131-144 & 145 (creased) mint	R £ 7.50
	73	"	S.G. 139-142 used (thinned)	R £ 4.00
	74	"	S.G. 112-125 mint (some foxing)	R £ 6.00
	75	"	S.G. 123, 124, 143 & 144 mint	R £ 4.00
	76	"	S.G. 123 plate blk. 4 plate 1 (some creases)	R £ 4.00
	77	"	S.G. 188-200 used	R £ 7.50
	78	"	S.G. 4 used (off centre)	E £ 1.00
	79	"	S.G. 37 fine mint	R 50p
	80	"	ditto.	
	81	"	ditto.	
	82	"	1948 S.W. pair unmounted	R £ 2.00
	83	"	KG VI. Post. Stat. Wrapper $\frac{1}{2}$ d. o/p SPECIMEN	R £ 2.00
	84	"	QE II " " mint 1d. post card (H&G 20)	E 80p
	85	"	QE II " " 3d. Env. (H&G 9)	E £ 1.00
	86	"	QE II " " 4d. Reg. Env. (H&G 6)	E 60p
	87	SOUTHERN NIGERIA.	S.G. 13, 14, 17, 21, 25, 31 mint & 38 (no gum)	R £ 3.00
	88	"	S.G. 19 used	R £ 10.00
	89	"	QV Post. Stat. post card o/p SPECIMEN	R £ 2.00
	90	"	KE VII Post. Stat. 1d. reply p.c. o/p SPECIMEN	R £ 2.00
	91	TOGO	Reg. Env. to London 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ d. local 1915 overprints pmk. LOME TOGOGEBEIT 5 Au 1915 (Philatelic)	R £ 1.50
	92	"	S.G. 43a mint. Local overprint.	R £ 1.50
	93	"	'TOGO and its Occupation Stamps' by R. Dalwick	R £ 1.00
	94	"	1915 Local Opt. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Complete pane with selvedge but with two stamps cut out by authorities, i.e. 'CUPATION' & 'CCUPATION' varieties. All other varieties are present. cat. £4.95+	R £ 3.00
	95	"	Mint Collection inc. local o/p to 2/6, some blks., $\frac{1}{2}$ d & 1d no hyphen, $\frac{1}{2}$ d 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d 3d 6d small F, London o/p to 5/- cat. £13.35	R £ 4.00

Bids are invited from all Study Circle members for items on the above list. The auction will remain open until September 25th, 1976. Buyers are reminded that they will be charged postage on the lots they receive. Lots will be sold at the reserve price if only one bid is received and at one bid higher than the second highest bid where more than one bid is received.

Bids and enquiries to D. Cross, 13 Raven Road, Walsall, WS5 3PZ, England.

PRICES REALISED AUCTION No. 4

Lot No. 1	30p	30	60p	56	£1.10	89	£1.65
3	£6.50	31	60p	57	75p	90	60p
4	£5.00	32	40p	58	£2.60	92	£1.25
5	£4.00	34	65p	60	£2.00	95	£3.75
6	£2.00	35	65p	61	£2.00	96	£3.75
7	£6.00	36	£2.20	62	£4.00	97	£3.25
8	£1.10	37	£1.60	63	£3.30	98	£2.75
9	40p	38	£2.00	65	£1.00	99	£3.75
10	60p	39	£6.75	66	£2.20	100	£2.75
11	£1.10	40	£3.25	67	£3.50	101	£3.30
12	£1.25	41	£2.75	68	£2.00	102	£3.30
13	£3.50	42	£2.65	69	£2.20	103	£2.75
14	£4.00	43	£2.20	70	£2.00	104	£3.00
15	£1.10	44	£2.20	72	50p	106	£3.30
16	£1.40	45	£2.20	76	£2.00	107	£2.00
17	50p	46	£1.10	77	50p	108	£3.75
18	70p	47	£1.75	79	50p	111	60p
19	£12.00	49	90p	80	£1.10	112	£1.50
21	£2.20	49	£2.00	81	£1.00	114	£22.00
23	£2.00	50	£1.25	82	£1.00		
24	60p	51	£1.20	83	£1.65		
25	£1.00	52	45p	84	40p		
27	£4.50	53	35p	86	90p		
28	£1.00	54	30p	87	40p		
29	£2.00	55	90p	88	£1.00		

Would contributors of material to the auction please note that the Auction Secretary has had some complaints regarding the quality of the lots. These complaints have come from our members living overseas who would experience greater difficulty in returning the lots. Furthermore the postage that these members have to pay is far more than the U.K. members. Contributors are therefore requested to pay due regard to the condition of the material when describing their lots.