

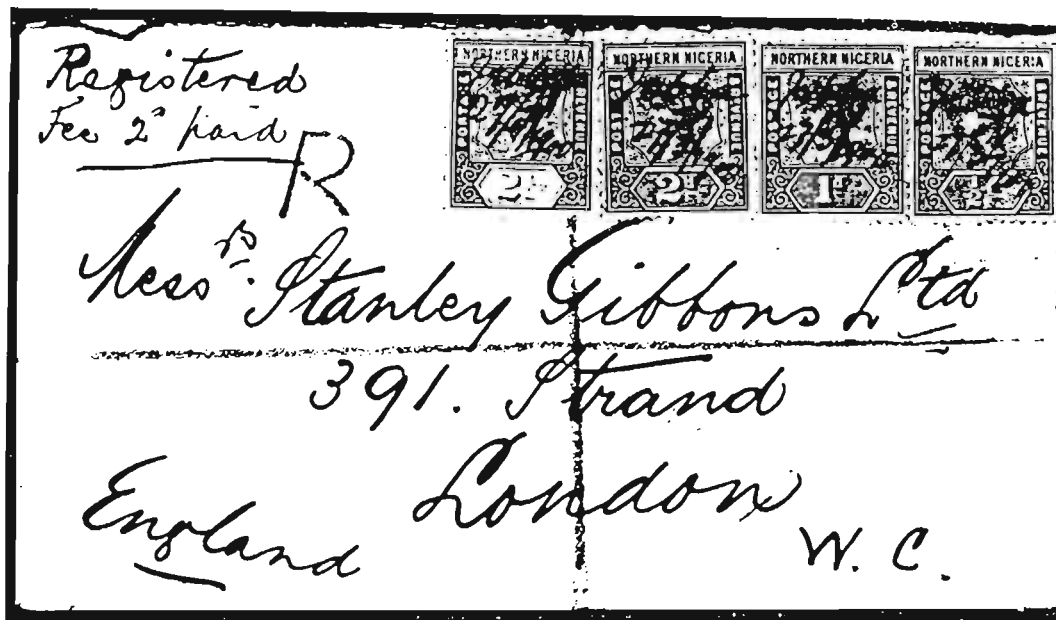
GAMEO



Journal of the
West Africa Study Circle
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 10

JULY 1994

West Africa



Ex the T.V. ROBERTS collection - sold by
Christie's Robson Lowe on 26 April 1989

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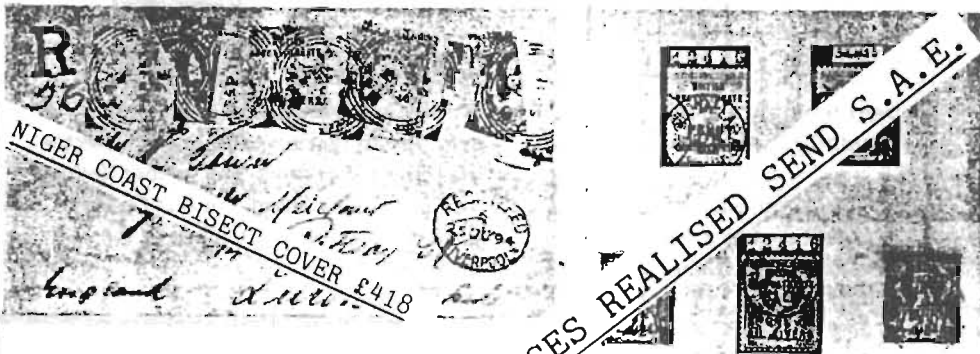
THE 'TOM CURRY' COLLECTION OF
BRITISH AFRICA

BONNY RIVER PROVISIONALS.

1894

OLD CALABAR PROVISIONALS.

Dec., 1893



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I am glad to be able to report that we have exceeded in this edition the size of the previous edition creating a record both in content and advertising. This, of course, is due to the Members' literary efforts. Indeed their efforts have been so inspired that I have had to postpone publication of some of the articles to the next issue. Forthcoming attractions are articles on Current Numbers, Burmah and Indian correspondence of the West African Forces and an unusual article on, Nigeria in The Space Age, amongst many others. This does not mean to say that the membership can rest on their laurels.

I would particularly draw your attention to the book review on Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks. The forgeries are horrifyingly good and every member should have a copy.

Future Publications: Jeremy Martin tells me that his book on Togo will now include the French postal history of the Anglo French occupation 1914-1922. The book will be ready for the latter part of this year.

Strictly speaking our members, Bob Maddocks and Marty Bratzel's fine book on "The postmarks and postal history of the Cameroons under British administration 1916-1961" is not a future publication as it has just been published. I would, however, draw all Cameroons specialists' attention to it. It is available either from Marty Bratzel or from Vera Trinder in London.

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CAVENDISH AUCTION 11/3/94
SALE OF THE "TOM CURRY" COLLECTION OF AFRICA

J.F. INCE

By courtesy of James Grimwood Taylor, I have received a copy of this sale catalogue together with details of prices realised. Although the collection contained only 56 West African lots, there being no Gambia, Sierra Leone and Togo, its main section comprised Nigerian and early Nigeria material which aroused keen interest as reflected in the bidding. This auction emphasized yet again that collections, on stamps, of good cancellations should always sell well.

There was only one lot for Cameroons (British occupation) comprising 7 covers which went for £180 (valuation £100) while the 6 lots of Gold Coast valued in total at £750 sold for £1600, the star item being a collection of 318 stamps, including seal type cancel which realised £750 (£240).

The Nigerian section, which strangely was listed in reverse chronological order, included a lot of 41 1914-39 which reached £360 (£120) which, although the individual items were obviously not detailed, underlines the growing demand for good covers of this period.

There were 18 lots of Oil Rivers/Niger Coast material with a total valuation of £2180 which reached a grand total of £5540. The 1893 and 1894 "Provisionals" sold well but the feature were three covers containing "bisects", two, each dated 11/9/94, raised £380 (£150) and £850 (£250), and the third dated 28/11/94 which included the halfpenny overprinted in green on 2 1/2d (SG11) reached £420 (£150).

Five lots for Lagos valued at £675 raised £1210 and included a pre-stamp cover to France of 9/3/1866 with a fine blue "B/LAGOS" cds Type 2 going for £190 (£100) in spite of toning and a missing flap while a mixed lot of early pieces and later covers valued at £75 reached £260, the feature being a piece with crowned circle "Paid/at/Lagos" Type 1 with cds of 18/6/1872 alongside.

A Northern Nigeria used collection fetched £440 (£220) while surprisingly a Southern Nigeria collection of some 200 items (all used) reached only £340 (£200) but a "SALVED FROM/SS JEBBA" cover went for £140 (£80) the handstamp type being that with the dropped second "S".

Altogether this small W. African section realised £10,400 against a valuation of £4705, so doubtless the vendor and auctioneers were well satisfied and, although the lots were not viewed by your scribe, I feel sure that the purchasers were content.

Note: Prices realised are exclusive of buyers' premium.

"EARLY NIGERIA" CANCELLATIONS

J.F. INCE

Probably most members will have seen Michael Hamilton's catalogue for his 21st postal auction for sale May 28th. This was notable for the remarkable section comprising dated cancellations of Lagos, Oil Rivers/Niger Coast, and Southern Nigeria. Not only were there two previously unrecorded items but also a number of new dates of use of certain types of cancellation which need to be included in John Sacher's and my book on 'The Postal Services of The British Nigeria Region pre-1914'.

For the benefit of members who may not have seen the catalogue, and for the record, I list below all these items:

LAGOS

Ifo Type Ry 18 with red ink M/S 9/3/03
and Lagos cds superimposed 10/3/03
Badagry: Type 9C Code B, new ERD 10/7/93
Ikorodu: Type 11 Code C new LRD 14/8/99
Oyo: Type 12 new LRD 31/8/04

OIL RIVERS/NIGER COAST

Brass: Type 3 purple (black) on QV 5d (SG5)
Buguma: Type 1A Code A new ERD 27/6/93
Forcados River: Type 1A Code C new ERD 4/2/93
Sombreiro
River: Type 1A Code C new ERD 6/2/94 (violet)
Warri: Type P3 black on QV 2 1/2 (SG4)
with Opobo River on 2nd stamp of pair
cds 16/5/93.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA

Burutu Parcel
Post: Type P11 Code C
new ERD 15/10/09 (assuming "99" for "09")
Ishan: Type 6A new ERD 2/11/10
Munankor: Type 6A new ERD 30/6/09
Obubra Hill: Type 3B new ERD 18/2/09 (violet)
Oban: (previously unrecorded)
Type 7A dated 16/2/11 (only date so far recorded)
Ogbomosho: Type 7A new LRD 23/10/11 (only second date recorded)
Shaki: Type 7A new LRD 11/4/13

RAILWAY HANDSTAMP "IFO"

The significance of this discovery (of which Michael Hamilton has kindly provided me with an enlarged colour photocopy) is that the hitherto recorded types Ry 18 have been for Iddo (Lagos) and Ibadan, the southern and northern termini respectively of the Lagos Government Railway, as it then existed. Not only does this IFO example have a clear Lagos cds superimposed, together with a manuscript date a day earlier (when the handstamp was presumably applied) but it demonstrates that at least one, and possibly other stations were issued with this handstamp.

The only stations "at this period" were, from Iddo with cumulative mileage:-

EBUTE METTA (1 1/4), AGEGE (11 1/2), OTTA (21 1/4), IFO (31), ITORI (40), OWOWO (50 1/4), ARO (60), junction for ABEOKUTA, SANUSHI (75 1/4), ERUWA (88 1/4), OGUNSHILEH (96 1/2), ADIO (113 3/4), IBADAN (123 1/2)

These handstamps were undoubtedly issued by the railway authorities and were only applied, at the option of the stationmaster, as a security measure to cancel stamps on mail left at the station to be placed aboard the next relevant train. They were not issued by the postal authorities. For further detail reference should be made to "The Travelling Post Offices of Nigeria 1903 - 1939 by Jack Ince published by The Circle in 1991. Pages 9 and 10 are especially relevant.

The envelope of this IFO example, on arrival Iddo, would have, with any other mail aboard the train, been handed by the stationmaster to the post office representative. All that mail should then have received the Lagos cds before onward transmission through the postal service. This did not always happen while the majority of examples seen have had the adhesive cancelled by the Lagos oval barred canceller type 7B.

THE C. HARDEMAN SMITH COLLECTION OF CRASH,
WRECK AND DISASTER MAIL

JEREMY MARTIN

The sale of this famous collection attracted a full house at Harmers of London on January 26th 1994 with at least five members of the Circle present. A week before the sale your reporter had spoken to Graham Childs, the auctioneer, who said that the sale had attracted world-wide interest and it seemed likely that pre-sale estimates would be exceeded.

Several lots contained items of West African interest. Some were individual items, others one item among several others. In the following notes, realisations include the buyer's premium of 10% but not V.A.T. on the premium. Estimates are in brackets.

In 1862 the S.S. 'Cleopatra' was wrecked at Shebar River which is near Sherbro, Sierra Leone. Lot 5 was an auditor's report with a two-line handstamp (fig. 1). This soared up to £396 (£60).

Eleven covers from the wreck of the Elder Dempster Line's S.S. 'Jebba' in 1907, with various cachets (fig. 2), reached £1,320 (£600).

Lot 65 consisted of eight envelopes, one of 1922 from the Gold Coast having a black 'DAMAGED BY SEA/WATER' cachet (fig. 3). This cannot be traced to any particular incident. The new owner paid £264 (£150) for the collection.

A 1955 cover from Sierra Leone with a boxed violet 'DAMAGED/BY OIL' (fig. 4) was in a selection of thirteen covers which fetched £275 (£120).

In 1937 a Luthansa flight to South America crashed at Bathurst. Lot 272 was a metered 3/6d envelope with a black cachet 'ACCIDENTE D'AVIATION' (fig. 5) which went for £253 (£40).

Another selection, this time of eight crash envelopes from 1940, included a cover from the Gold Coast which was carried by an Air France plane which was shot down in Ouistreham in Normandy. This cover was badly burnt and received the appropriate cachet. The lot realised £396 (£120).

Lot 302 consisted of ten 1946 envelopes including a B.S.A.A. 'Star Leader' cover, the plane crashing at Bathurst. These items were knocked down for £374 (£150).

The B.O.A.C. crash in 1956 at Kano was represented by an 'Ambulance' cover with a purple cachet (fig. 6). With eight other 1956 envelopes, they also fetched £374 (£100).

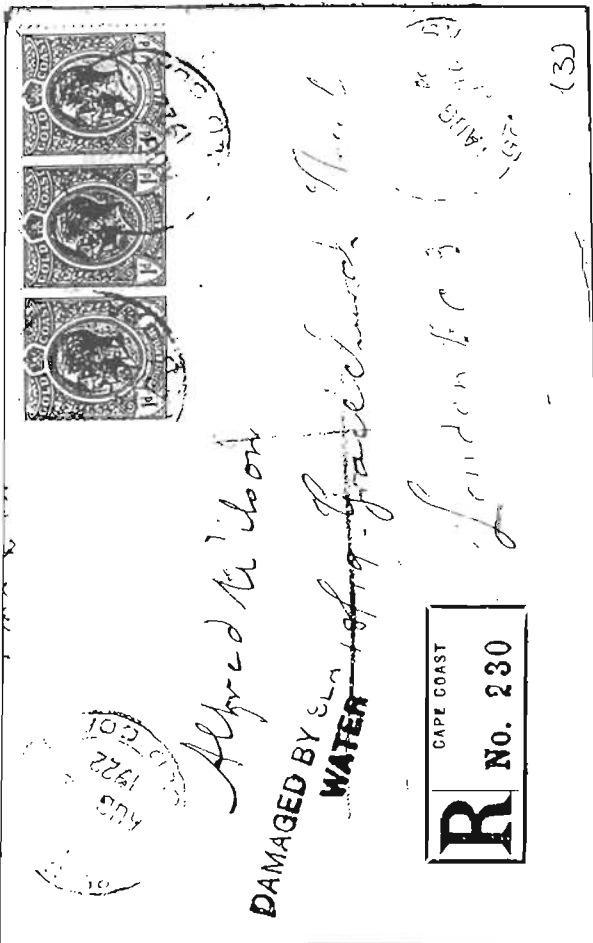
The final lot with West African interest was number 316, four crash envelopes from 1969-1974, one of which was from a VC 10 of Nigerian Airways which crashed on 20th November 1969 at Iju, 17km, short of Lagos, on a flight from Accra to Kano via Lagos. This went for a surprising (£396) (£60).

Graham Childs feeling that the sale would be a great success was clearly correct, most lots selling at well over estimate. It is pleasing to report that members of the Circle were able to obtain some West African lots and one member even seemed to be starting a new interest by purchasing covers with no West African connection.

It should be noted that the illustrations do not necessarily come from items in the sale. Also, a box round the cachet does not mean there is one in the original.

(1)

SAVED FROM THE WRECK
OF THE CLEOPATRA



(3)

PLYMOUH
SALVED FROM
\$ S JEBBA

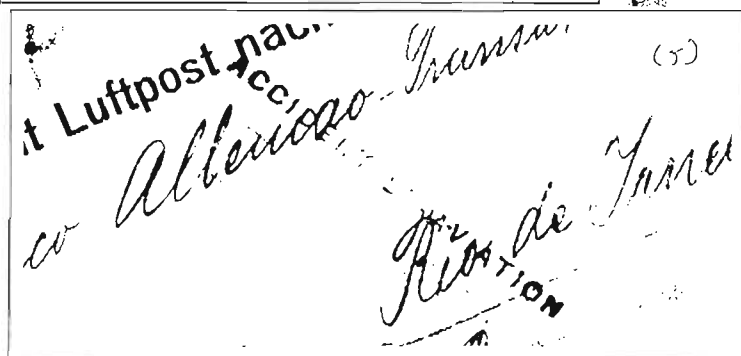


Miss S. W. Watter
27 Allison Road
Gravesend
Kent
England

(2)



(4)



(5)

(6)
ENCLOSED LETTER SALVAGED FROM
AIR CRASH AT KALO (24-6-56)

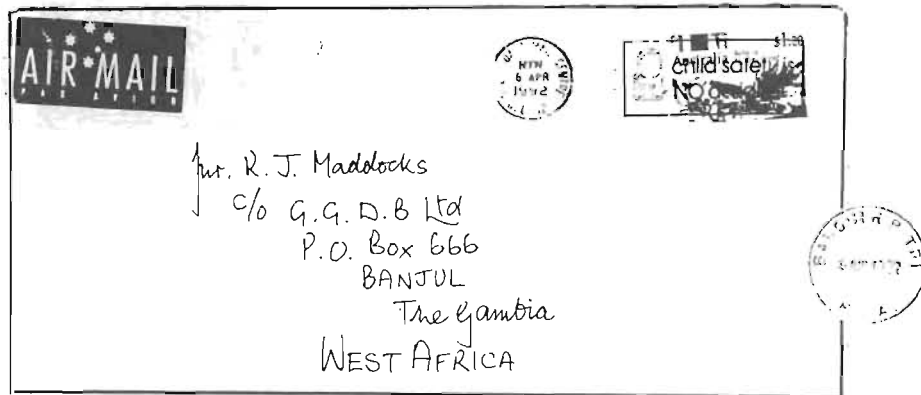
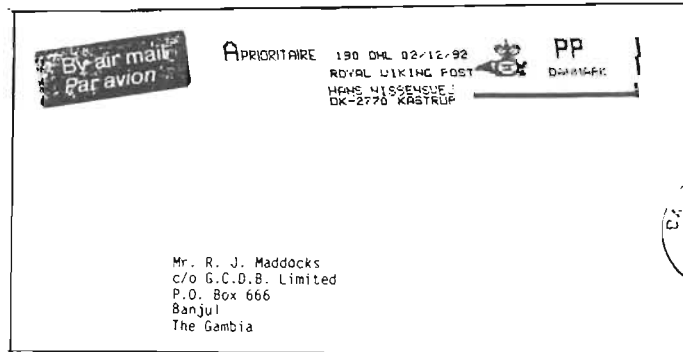
SOME ODDMENTS OF RECENT GAMBIA POSTAL HISTORY

R. J. MADDOCKS

(N.B. All illustrations except those in 3 as mentioned are reduced in size for reasons of space).

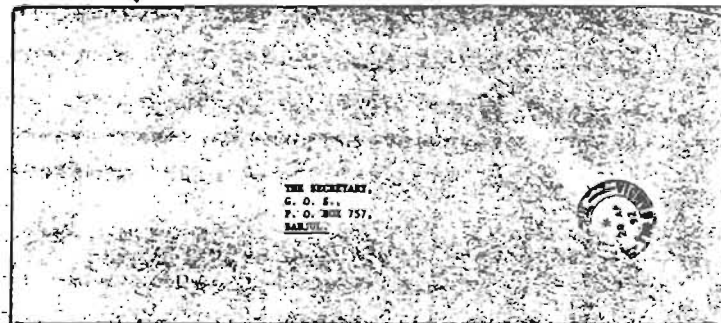
1. Overseas Mail for Banjul The Gambia Misdirected to Banqui Central African Republic

These two covers - one from Denmark, the other from Australia - addressed to me at Banjul were both received posted out of course as evidenced by the Banqui backstamp on each.

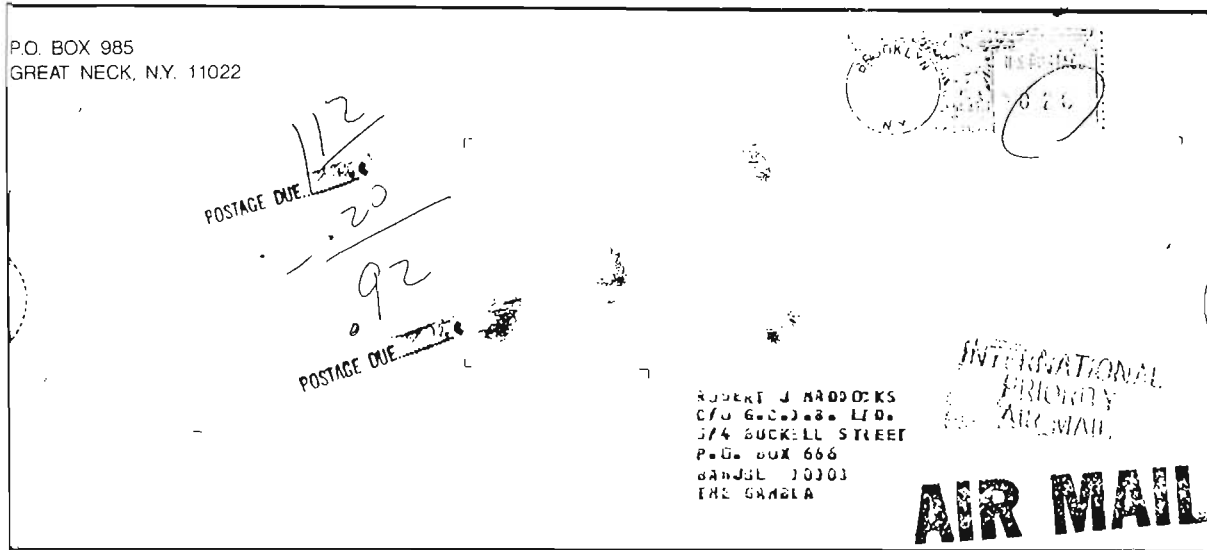
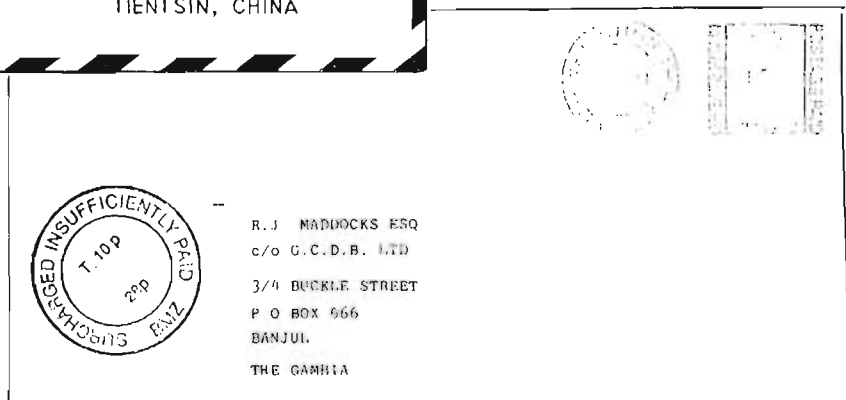
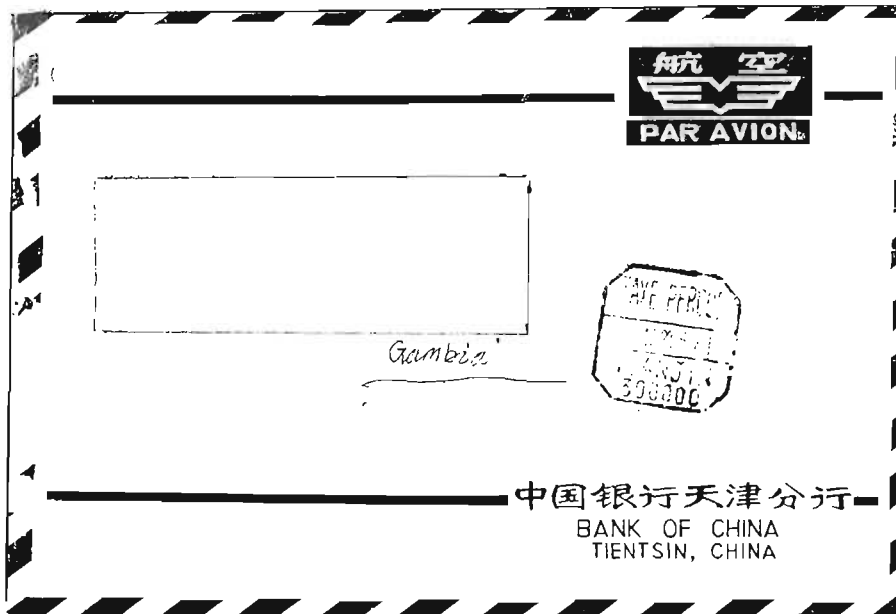


2. Unfranked and Underfranked Letters

- (i) This unfranked local letter posted in Banjul on 29th April 1992 was delivered without being surcharged. Other such letters have been seen.



(ii) Mails surcharged at overseas post offices are also in all cases noted, not actioned on receipt in the Gambia. Illustrated here are 3 taxed letters from China, U.K. and U.S.A., which were delivered without collection of the surcharge raised.



3. Local Mail Undelivered, Returned to Sender

Whilst the efficiency of its services is often criticised by the public, the Post Office in turn often has to contend with careless and thoughtless customers. One such instance is clearly evidenced by this small selection of five covers from a batch mailing of an expatriate firm of chartered accountants in Banjul two years ago. The sender moreover did not even bother to put his name and return address on the envelopes. The other covers here illustrated are from unrelated mailings. All were returned by the Gambia postal officials for the quite obvious reasons as marked thereon.

Most "return" markings, particularly those made at up country post offices are made in manuscript. Only at Banjul has the use of a boxed 'return' cachet been noted; it is quite different to that recorded and illustrated by Mr. Andrew in Cameo, January 1989 (page 124) which oddly enough was not seen on any of the return letters examined in 1991 and 1992.

Some covers have a combination of manuscript and cachet markings and this is explained as the former was made by the up country post office returning the item to G.P.O., Banjul (remember sender's address not shown on the envelope!) where in turn the cachet was added.

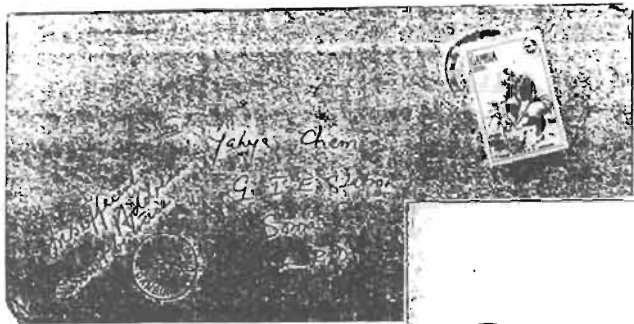
There are, however, at least 3 different examples of this boxed cachet which was probably locally made. They are easily identified by comparison through the various sizes and alignment of the letters and boxes therein. The three cachets are here illustrated in full size for this purpose.



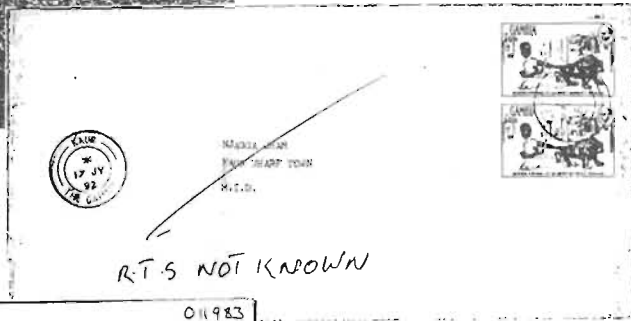
Details of the returned covers:-

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|--|
| (1) | By Mansa Konko | - | Manuscript "Insufficient Address Cannot be Traced". |
| (2) | By Kaur | - | "R.T.S. Not Known". |
| (3) | By Serekunda | - | "Address Insufficient Cannot Trace" and "Return to Sender". |
| (4) | By Banjul | - | "No Adress" (sic). |
| (5) | By Banjul | - | Boxed Cachet, "Insufficient Address" indicated. |
| (6) | By Brikama | - | Manuscript "Return Insufficient Address" with Boxed Cachet added. |
| (7) | By Serekunda | - | Manuscript "Cannot Trace" With Boxed Cachet added, "Insufficient Address". |
| (8) | By Banjul | - | "He is dead over 2 years". |

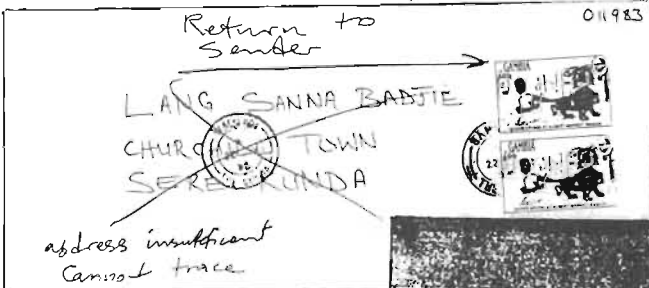
Cachet struck in black ink, except (7) which was in blue. Manuscript in black except (2) and (6) which were in red. There are no backstamps or other markings.



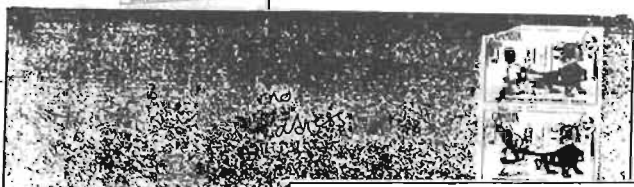
(1)



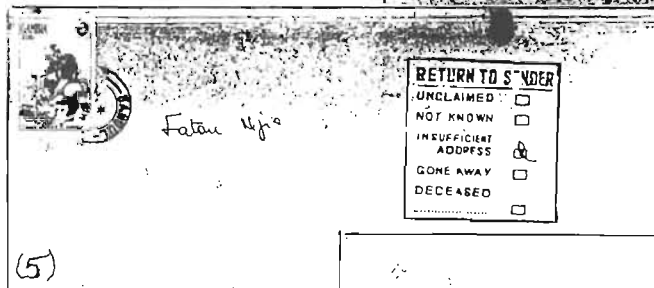
(2)



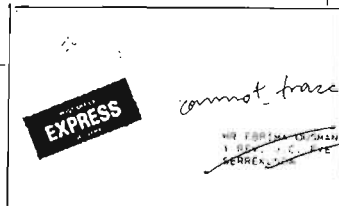
(3)



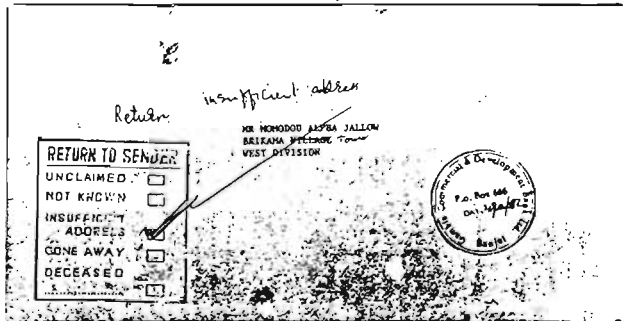
(4)



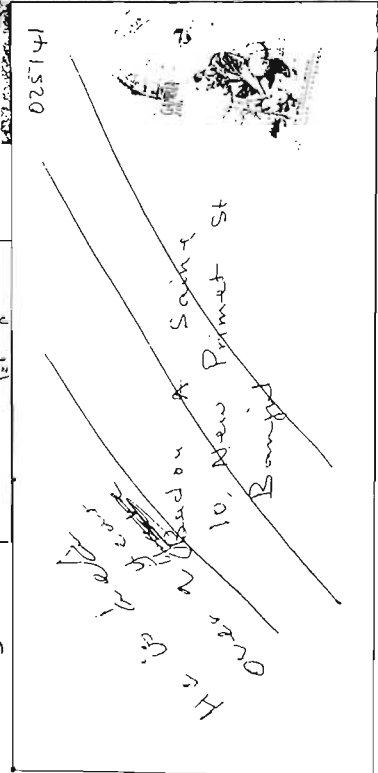
(5)



(7)



(9)



8

NEW DISCOVERY - SIERRA LEONE

The Editor

In British Africa Philatelic Auction Sale of 26 May 1994 Lot 589 contained a hitherto unknown security overprint, Rotombo on an 1884 halfpenny dull green mint. Overprints are known for Sherbro and Manoh Salijah. The unusual thing about this overprint is that unlike the other two it does not coincide with any known postmarks. The Lot fetched £110 excluding VAT.



589

CENSORSHIP OF MAIL BEFORE NON-POST OFFICE TRANSMISSION

M. ST. J. WRIGHT

While searching for civil censorship material of Nigeria I have acquired three small batches of items from West Africa that appear not to have gone through any West African post office.

1) Envelopes censored in Nigeria and posted with British stamps in London.

I have five examples of this, all addressed to Mrs. T.A.Glover, at 16 Hunter House, Hunter Street, London W.C.1. They date from 9 AUG/1941 to 14 FEB/1942. Four have the regular (most common) hexagonal censor handstamp in red, red-purple or violet Type 1A with No 12 of Lagos, and an additional L/1 or L/4 in Type 4. The fifth has a mark in Type IC numbered 30, which may also provisionally be assigned to Lagos. They have all been opened and sealed with varying tapes.

They have presumably been submitted to censorship in Nigeria, as the law required, before being taken to Britain privately by ship or possibly aircraft. They were then put in the mail at various central London offices with the appropriate inland rate of 2 1/2d using a British stamp.

2) Envelopes censored in the Gold Coast and probably posted under cover in the USA.

I found two such envelopes in California, whither they were addressed. They came from an American C.F.Linenbach who gave

his return address on one as the Personnel Office of P.A.A. Africa Ltd. Accra, Gold Coast Africa. He was obviously helping to set up the famous Fan-Am route, FAM-14, from Miami to Leopoldville. One envelope with no sealing tape, which has an uncancelled Gold Coast 3d stamp on it, has on the reverse a Type 1A No 11 hexagonal censor stamp in violet. A second, unstamped, envelope has Type 1A No 9 in red, and has a buff sealing tape (Type L2). It still contains a letter dated 11-10-41 (NB This is surely American style with the month before the day, and means 10th November).

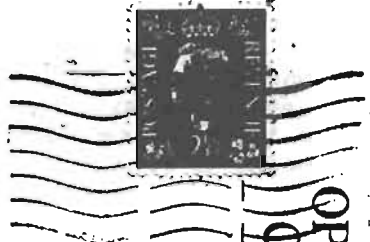
This second envelope gives his return address as P.A.A. Africa Ltd. Chrysler Building N.Y. This I think gives a clue as to why there are no postal markings at all; I suggest that Fan-Am took their mail back to New York, by their private air (or sea) transport (it was before the route was officially opened) and for some reason sent it under cover to the ultimate destination.

There was a third cover with this batch from the same writer - on this he has written but then deleted the words Accra Gold Coast Africa from his return address, without any substitute. This has no sign of Gold Coast government censorship, but has a large censorship label with a black "mourning" edge, within which it reads "OPENED BY / - ARMY - / U.S.EXAMINER No.". This is tied by a smallish violet rectangle which reads at top and bottom "PASSED BY / ARMY EXAMINER"; in the middle is a double horizontal oval flanked by the letters U S, and containing five zeros. This is initialled by a Captain. There is also a small black handstamp reading SOLDIERS. The letter has, in the same handwriting as the address, at top left the words "Air Mail in States" and at top right "6c pd". There are unfortunately no dates, and I cannot tell when or where the censorship was done, or indeed whether the writer was then fully a serviceman or not. ("Army" would presumably be applicable at that time to the US Army Air Force.)

3) Envelopes examined in Great Britain and posted there using Nigerian stamps

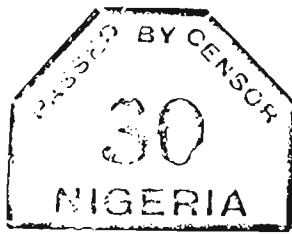
I have two long envelopes (addressed to Messrs Cocoa Manufacturers Ltd., 61 Wigginton Road, York, England.) each bearing 6d in Nigerian stamps but postmarked in Liverpool on 28 JAN 1942 or 23 OC 42. They bear slightly different handstamps in black which read (around a horizontal oval, which encloses a date) " EXAMINED FOR FLAG OFFICER IN CHARGE / * LIVERPOOL * ". I can only assume they were taken privately, perhaps by naval vessel, to Liverpool and submitted to naval censorship there - and that there was some agreement with the Post Office about the use of Nigerian stamps.

All classification numbers are taken from the 1993 WASC publication West African Censorship: World War I and II by J.J.Martin and F.L.Walton.



MRS T.A. GLOVER
16 Hunter House
Hunter Street
LONDON W.C.1

OPENED BY
CENSOR



(1)

GOLD COAST
OPENED BY EXAMINER

*St. Donald Webster Jr.
921 S. Coast Ave
Apt. 1
San Jolla, California
(U.S.A.)*



(2)

A. V. REDDALE, Esq.,

Messrs. Cocoa Manufacturers Ltd.,

61, Wigginton Road,

York,

England.



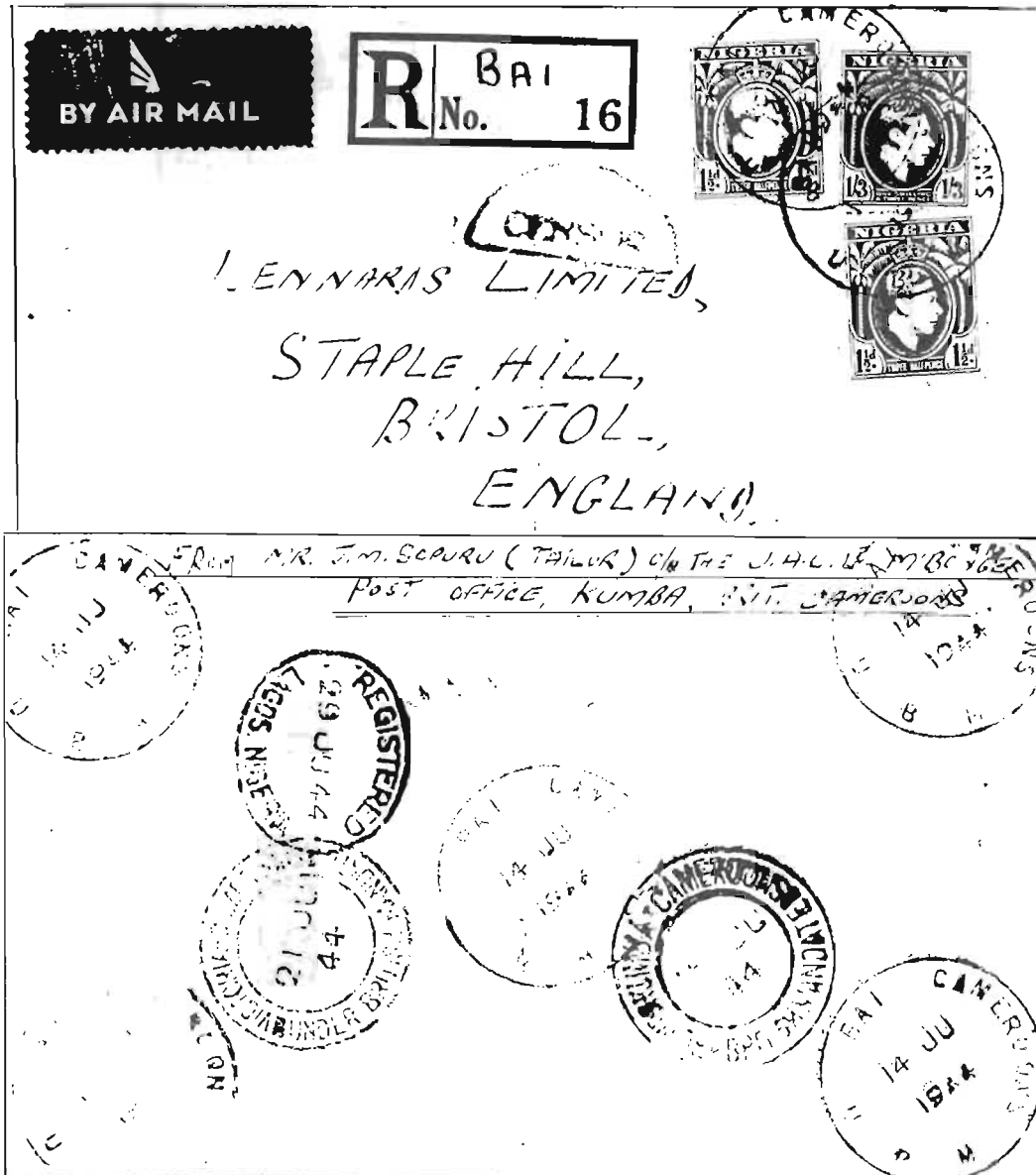
(3)

BAI CAMEROONS - SKELETON POST MARK

R. MAY

The illustration below shows the skeleton post mark Bai - Cameroons - UBM dated 14.6.44. This post mark is mentioned on page 13 of the WASC Publication, "The Postal History of the British Cameroons" (1914-61) by Wright, with known dates of 10/4/46 - 27/4/47 for postmarks and a "known opening date" on page 12 of 1/4/47!

It seems to me that this may provide an earliest known date. Could it be significant the registration label is No. 16? The text on the back of the envelope is interesting, giving the sender's address as "c/o M'bonge Post Office, Kumba". M'bonge was a separate postal agency operating at the same time as Bai but again with an "opening date" of 1/2/48, 4 years after this letter. Did it have a canceller in 1944, or did it use Bai?



PERFORATION VARIETY FROM BIAFRA

A.J.Plumbe.

Variations on Biafran issues are plentiful but mostly concern the overprints or colours. The First Anniversary of Independence issue occurs with a major perforation doubling on the 1/- value (SG 18) in mint condition, as illustrated below. It would appear the line perforator made an initial impression on the top row of stamps and then moved forward only 7mm instead of the full height of the stamp and made a second impression. The result is the top row of stamps have parallel perfs 7mm apart at their base, 7mm blank wing margins at their top, and a doubling of the perforations between the upper line of perforations through the lower part of the stamp and the top of the imprinted part of the stamp.



SOVEREIGN BIAFRA OVERPRINT TRIALS

A.J.Plumbe.

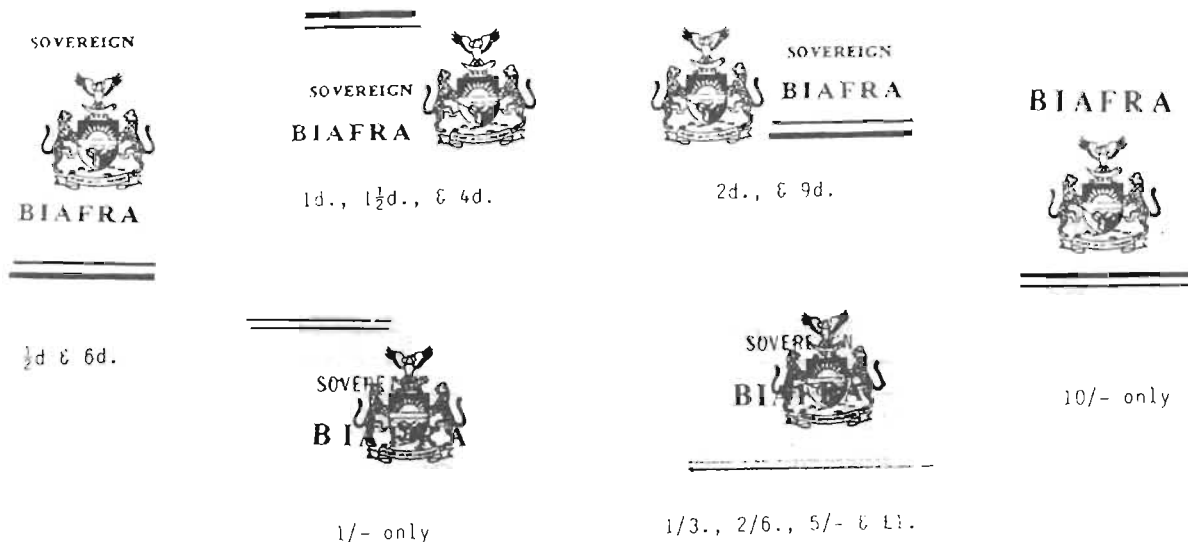
The Sovereign Biafran overprints on Nigerian stamps are notable for their variety of formats. A total of six combinations of the wording, crest and cancellation bars were used.

For the low values up to 9d. a small typeface was used for the 'SOVEREIGN BIAFRA' wording, with the 'BIAFRA' measuring 17 X 2 mm. For the 1/-, 1/3d., 2/6d., 5/- and £1 values a larger typeface was used for both the 'SOVEREIGN' and the 'BIAFRA', with the latter measuring 22 X 3 mm. This same larger typeface was used for the 10/- value only that the 'SOVEREIGN' part of the wording was omitted.

Five lengths of cancellation bars were employed, ranging in length from 15 mm to 34 mm. These comprised one thick and one thin bar on each value except on the 1/- value which had two thin bars. On the 1d, 1.5d., 4d., and 10/- values the thicker bar is the upper of the two.

The crest was printed in black on most values, but in red on the 1/-, 1/3d, 2/6d., 5/-, and £1 values.

Mock-ups of these combinations are shown below followed by examples of printer's test pieces on the 2d., 4d., 9d., 5/- and £1 values. The particular layout shown on the test pieces was in practice used only on the 2d and 9d values.



PRINTER'S TEST PIECES



SIERRA LEONE HALFPENNY PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS

TOM BUTLIN

Following Frank Walton's note in Cameo of January 1993 and Philip Beale's article in the London Philatelist of October 1993 members may be interested in this misplaced overprint of SG 39.



From an enlarged photograph(not photocopy) nearly 2½ times the original it is clear that the slant of the overprinted Half Penny is the same as that of the bars. This suggests that the margin used as the lay edge was damaged and/or not square, and that on both passes through the machine, the sheet was laid well out of position. See also paragraph 3 of page 141 of The Postal Service of Sierra Leone.

In my limited experience of this issue I have also found one stamp with the bars through both sets of perforations being more discernible at the top of the stamp than at the foot. This is the nearest thing to the bars being inverted but not the words 'Half Penny'.



If only some sheets had been overprinted in one operation, misplaced or inverted overprints would be much easier to explain but no less interesting. Any other comments on this issue would be appreciated.

AGBELUVHOE

F.K. KEMME

Fritz Kemme writes concerning the postmarks Agbeluvhoe and Agbeluhvoe.



TYPE F

ex "The Postal Services in TOGO -
During the Anglo-French Occupation
of 1914 - 1922" by Henri Tristant,
(Societe Philatelique Franco-Britannique, 1961):

Agbeluvhoe

This office seems to have replaced the German one at Avhegame. English canceller - 30 mm. diameter: seen from 16.7.20 onwards - reads AGBELUVHOE/TOGO.

Another cancellation of the same type carries the name spelt "AGBELUHVOE"; seen on optd. Gold Coast dated 10.1.19. Although seeming perfectly authentic, this last cancellation has only been seen once, on a single stamp off cover, and its true existence has yet to be confirmed.

and ex "The Postal History of TOGO 1914 - 1922"
by J J Martin - BWSC - 1974?

Type F AGBELUVHOE. The Code letter "A" appears as "^". Also, the spelling has been reported as AGBELUHVOE on a stamp, not cover, dated 10.1.19.

As you will see from the illustration (Fig. 1)

I have this postmark on cover - which confirms its true existence. In addition I have another one with this spelling on a single stamp dated 16 MY 19 . (Fig. 2)

Jeremy Martin states in his check-list E.K.D. 15.1.20 for AGBELUVHOE whilst the spelling of AGBELUHVOE seems to appear in 1919 only.

As his publication is already 20 years old more covers may have turned up - or maybe this is still the only one.

Fig 1

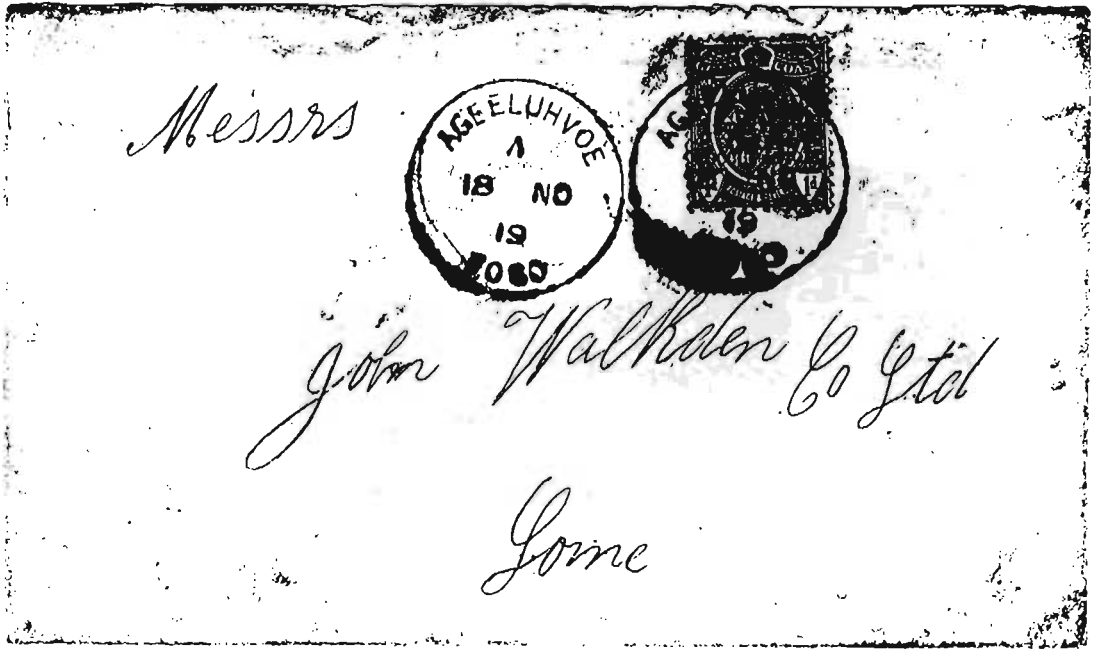


Fig 1

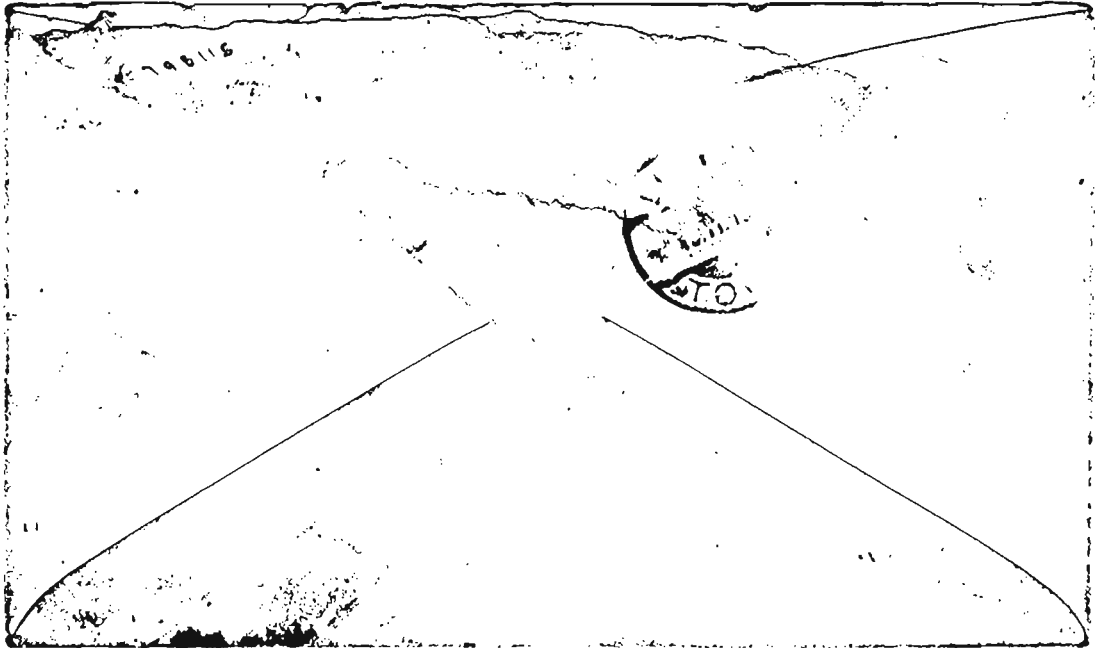


Fig 2

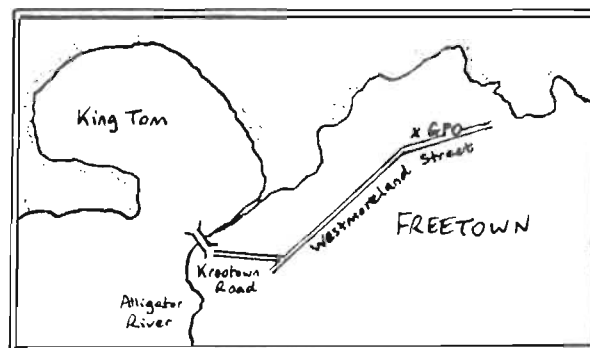




The post card illustrated above caught my eye primarily due to the illustration of the street letter box, and its relatively early date. I have endeavoured to identify the position of the box, but it has proved somewhat of a challenge.

The obvious facts: the inscription on the card 'Freetown - Krootown Road' and the postmark of 21 November 1906.

The map below is sketched from 'Atlas of Sierra Leone - Survey & Lands Department (1953)':



The point of interest is the location of the bridge over the Alligator River at the coastal end of Krootown Road. The area west of the river is King Tom. Looking again at the postcard more closely, it can be deduced that the camera is pointing uphill, or inland. From this, one can deduce that it may be taken from close to the bridge leading to King Tom. There was of course a post office called KING TOM BRIDGE open around this time, but where was it located?

My next reference source was John Forrest's meticulous hand written notes taken from the Blue Books and Gazettes, of which he generously allowed me to take a copy. Under King Tom Bridge I found the following details:

Opened	1 July 1904
Location	60 Krootown Road
Postmistress	Mrs Elizabeth Joanna Leigh
Salary	£20 per annum
M.O.O. Closed	1 September 1915
Closed	14 August 1916

My conclusion from the above is that the post card does depict the street scene around King Tom Bridge post office shortly after it was opened. Can anyone provide a more detailed map which includes house numbers?

Members may be interested in the addresses of other offices that are given in the same reference material:

CLINE TOWN	Cline Street (1926)
KISSY	21 Falcon Street (1934)
KISSY	101 Blackhall Road (1935)
MURRAY TOWN	Aitken Street (1910)
PEPEL	The house of Mrs Theresa Benjamin (1937)
WILBERFORCE	The house of Robert Hartley, Melrose Store at the Congo Cross Roads (1935).

GAMBIA NOTES ON PAPER AND WATERMARK VARIETIES

L. WELDHEN

The 3/- value of the 1902-05 issue on white or on yellow and white paper has always been a mystery. Recently while reading "The New Hebrides Postal Stamps and Their History" by Hals and Collas, Collectors Club Inc. New York 1967 - I noticed on page 117 dealing with the dual currency series of 1925 a footnote concerning the French issue 4d - 40c red on yellow - "The 4d - 40c on white paper has been decolorized by acid fumes".

It is suggested, therefore, that the paper varieties of the Gambia 3/- value have been caused by acid fumes, that the stamps did not leave the printers in that condition, and are not a collectable variety but merely a curiosity or even a deliberate fake.

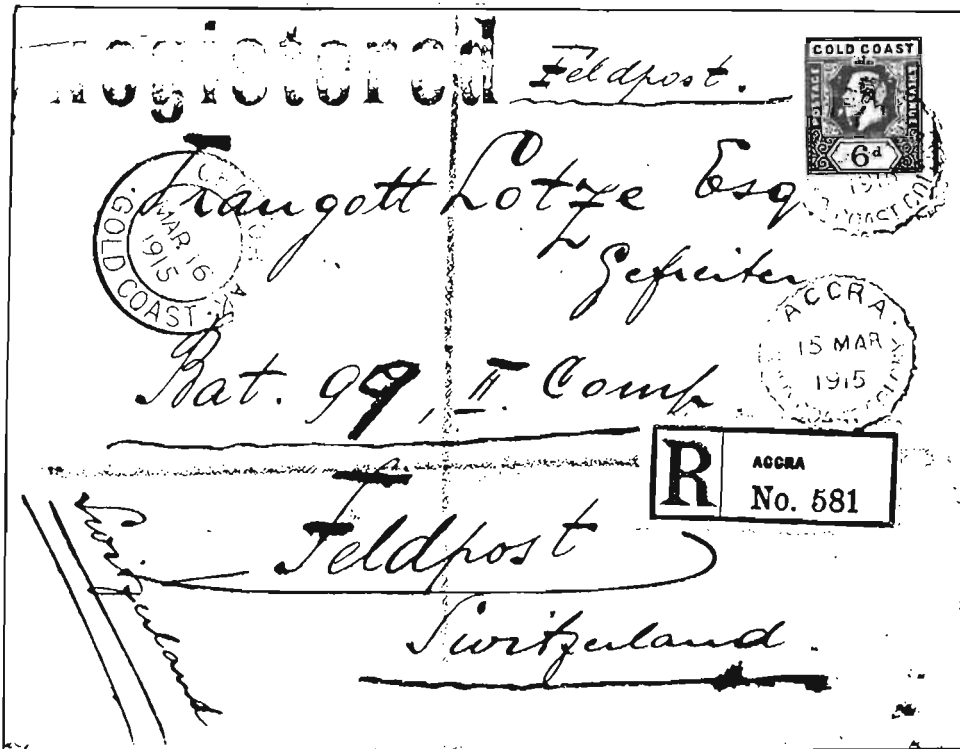
The 3d. value of the 1912 - 21 issue exists on almost white paper, it is suggested that it is in the same class as the aforementioned 3/- value. Note - All the above stamps were printed by De La Rue.

A third copy of the 4d 1886/93 issue Watermark Upright, has surfaced. In Feldman sale - November 1-6, 1993 lot 10567 was described as "1886-93 CA 4d Brown Var. Wmk upright used, one corner perf. bent, fine and scarce. Est - 200 Sw. Fr. Realisation is not known.

The black and white illustration is not clear but from the depth of tone it would seem to be Black-brown. The cancellation shows DE but the year is blurred.

Only twelve more to find!

JEREMY MARTIN



So far, just three covers have been recovered bearing this cachet. I have not been able to discover what 'AK' stands for - whether it is the initials of the censor or, less likely, an abbreviation for 'ACCRA'.

This cover is particularly interesting since it was inscribed 'Feldpost' but 6d registered postage was paid. It was addressed to 'Bat 99, II Comp/Feldpost' in Switzerland. The March 16 1915 cachet, in black, is the earliest so far recorded.

A YORUBA POSTMAN OF THE 19TH CENTURY

R. J. MADDOCKS

This sketch of a Yoruba postman was found in a biography of the Reverend Charles Gollmer of the Church Missionary Society in West Africa. The book, written by his eldest son, was published in 1889.

Rev. Gollmer went into the Sierra Leone Mission field in 1841 and in 1845 joined the Rev. Samuel Crowther (later first African Bishop of the Anglican Church on the Niger) at Badagry in Yoruba country (now within the Federal Republic of Nigeria) and later at Lagos to begin the Yoruba Mission. He returned for health reasons to England in 1862 where, until his death in 1886, he continued to work on translating the Prayer Book and various tracts and sermons into the Yoruba language.

The biography concerns itself with his missionary work and anti-slavery activities. There is nothing whatsoever about the mails of that time, yet oddly enough, it contains this sketch of a postman that is somewhat at variance with type in West Africa. Instead of the usual near naked runner bearing a cleft stick, here is seen a clothed plodding carrier headloading presumably, a large case of mail. "Haste, Post Haste" delivery would seem to have been the last thing on his mind, however.



A YORUBA POSTMAN.

In an appendix the author comments on various African symbolic messages; one of these is a shirt which indicated an "Oyibo" - a white man or belonging to a white man. Thus a native travelling in the interior and especially in unsafe places would resort to the stratagem of wearing an English/European shirt as this was found to be the best possible passport and protection. By this means he was allowed to pass unmolested because the shirt indicated that the wearer belonged to or was connected with or was employed by a white man. Thus, likely waylayers of travellers sporting such significant attire were forewarned that the wrath of the Gods would be upon their own heads! There was, however, no symbolic message as to what form that wrath might take - Redcoats perhaps?

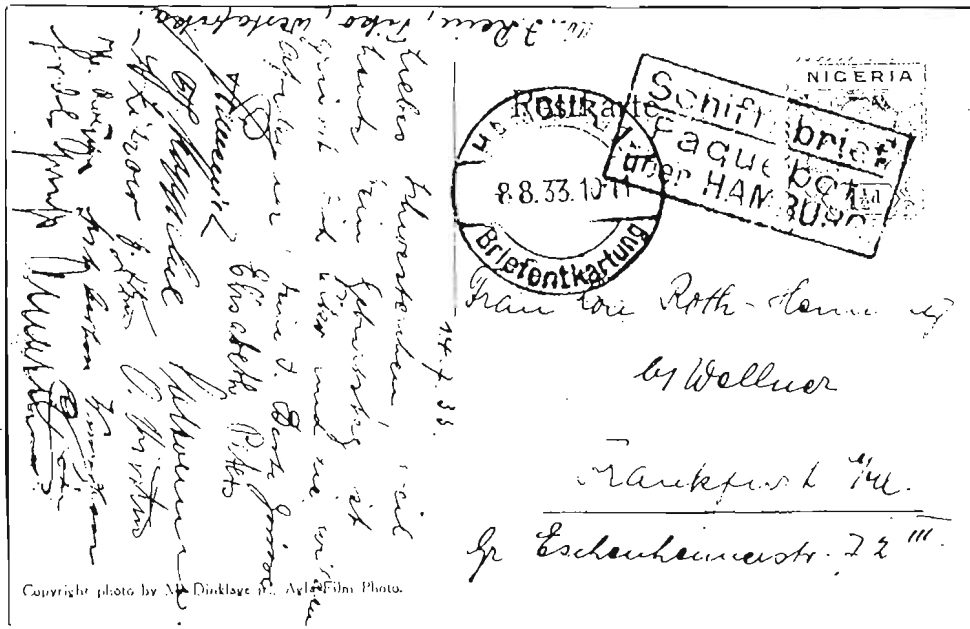
HAMBURG PAQUEBOT ON NIGERIAN STAMP

JEREMY MARTIN

Commercially used 'Ship' mail from West Africa is not easy to find.

This postcard is franked with a G.V. 1½d. orange S.G.26 and has received a boxed 'Schiffsbrief/Paquebot/uber HAMBURG' cachet with a Hamburg arrival mark of 8.8.33.

The message of the card consists of greetings from several people who have signed the card. What is more interesting is that it was written at 'Tiko, Westafrika' in the Cameroons.



Copyright photo by N. Dinklage in. Ayles Film Photo.

WWII IN WEST AFRICA - PRISONER OF WAR POSTAL CENSORSHIP

R. J. MADDOCKS

This topic has featured in several 'Cameo' articles and also in 'West African Censorship WWI & II' by Messrs Walton and Martin, published last year. It concerns the origin of censorship cachets with a "West African Force" domicile as seen on mail from Italian prisoners of war. Discussions, however, based on examination of the actual covers have not, so far, led to any conclusion as to the location of the P.O.W camps from which the letters emanated.

A clue is seen in the message written on the postcard dated 20.5.43 from P.O.W Dominico Capponi to Milan, as illustrated in Mr A J Brown's article in 'Cameo' July 1992 and from Mr N Colley's collection - viz mention of the prisoner's transfer from South Africa.

Italian prisoners of war from the Abyssinian and Eritrean war fronts as well as from Somaliland were sent for internment to, inter alia, South Africa. They included a large number of artisans - mechanics, electricians, blacksmiths, etc - and somehow, somewhere, someone in the British West Africa Administrations (whether Military or Colonial) must have hit on the good idea that this source of skilled labour could be usefully employed in the West African colonies. Essential public services had been adversely affected in their operation since such manpower needed to run them had been diverted to the war effort.

Initial approaches were apparently made to the War Office, London by the General Officer in Command, West Africa for up to 1000 P.O.W artisans but these were turned down for various, mainly logistic, reasons (accommodation, feeding, security, etc) but not least that it was considered unreasonable to expect the Italians to endure the unbearable climatic conditions of the West Coast. (No consideration for the Europeans already there!!)

In January 1943 the UK Government eventually agreed to the employment in West Africa (spread over the four colonies) of 500 Italian P.O.Ws and arrangements were made accordingly with the South African Government to ship them. The selection of artisans (preferably English speaking) according to requirements created problems for the South Africans. On 22 May 1943 the General Officer in Command, W Africa advised the War Office that the P.O.Ws had arrived in Lagos. In Nigeria it was proposed that their employment was to be with the Public Works Dept, Railways, Marine and Medical Services, mention was made too of employment on the Cameroons Plantations. No other details were available on file but obviously there was at least one P.O.W camp in Lagos, Nigeria.

That there was also a camp in Sierra Leone is confirmed for the same file has a passing reference under date October 1943 to P.O.Ws being at Murray Town which was under Army (WAFF?) supervision

The mentioned file, from which this information was obtained by courtesy of the Archivist, was seen in the National Archives, Banjul. However, it contains only odd copies of exchanges between G.O.C.W.A and the War Office, London and is an incomplete record. Whilst there was nothing to indicate whether Italian P.O.Ws were in fact used in the Gambia, obviously the colony's Government had been a party to the negotiations at the time. At least a few more pieces have been positioned in the jigsaw puzzle!

The G.O.C West Africa was, incidentally, sited at Accra (Achimota).

SOME NOTES ON THE PRONUNCIATION OF GOLD COAST
AND TOGO PLACE-NAMES

MICHAEL ENSOR

Having during displays of Gold Coast material been so presumptuous as to criticise the speaker's pronunciation of place-names I have been told that I should be of more help if I put such advice in writing. This I now attempt.

My own, modest, linguistic achievement being confined to the Ewe language, spoken in South East Ghana and Southern Togo, I have consulted former colleagues in the Gold Coast service with a knowledge of Akan languages, spoken in the former Colony and Ashanti, to whom I am grateful for their help. Our object has not been to attempt an exact representation of place names as spoken by their inhabitants in their tonal languages. Our 26-letter alphabet makes this often impossible. Linguistic experts have produced additional letters for such a purpose but I know of only one case wheretheir efforts have influenced official spelling. Nor am I sure that there was an absolutely standard pronunciation of, shall we say, the Akropongs in Akwapim, in Akim and in Ashanti, any more than in Britain for the Newcastles on Tyneside, in Staffordshire and in Gwent. So what follows indicates how a European resident in the Gold Coast could make himself understood by the locals without provoking mirth.

Sounds.

Africans did not write before the arrival of the European. So place-names that first appeared on the map and in postal handstamps are transcriptions of what Europeans from various countries heard, not always from clear speakers. During the second and third decades of this century the Gold Coast Government prescribed new ways of spelling many towns. However the main object of the changes seems to have been to standardise the words in a short form rather than to indicate their pronunciation. Several of the changes, e.g. Coomassie to Kumasi, and Adda to Ada, do nothing to help those unfamiliar with the places with their pronunciation. But Attuaboe to Atwabo and Komfrodua to Koforidua do help. On balance it is better, when trying to pronounce a place, to start from the revised spelling.

The most important general rule is to pronounce every syllable. Take Akwatia: pronounce it Akwateea; Nkwatia as Nkwateea; Prestea as Presteea, Twedie as Twedyay. Do not leave final Es silent: Kade is Cadday; Aperade is Aperarday. They are heard in Agbeluvhoe, Atakpame, Sokode, Tsevie and in both words of Have Etoe (Harvey Etway). Kete in Kete Krachi is almost Kaytay.

The Ewe language has several sounds difficult to transcribe. Three are worth mentioning here.

First there is the hard o like the Italian hard o, or in our word 'of'. It is commoner than the soft o. The hard o features in '-kope' or '-kofe' (village) as in Sogakope, Dzelukope. In the case of Abor an r has been added to make the hardness of the o clear. In several non-Ewe names it is sometimes also hard - Abodom, Abomososo, Aboso, Mapom and in the ending '-krom' (village). But in Ho the o is soft so it sounds like the English word hoe.

Then there is a sound like the Scots 'ch', as in loch, or the Greek chi. This presented no problem for the Germans who could use 'ch', as in Anecho, for the sound. (The French can't manage it and say Aneshow). The British have written it as an h for want of a better symbol. The trickiest example is Hohoe where it features twice (with two hard 'o' s). It is almost impossible for us to get the first of these letters right, so an English h will pass here. But for the second an h is insufficient. So use the German hoch for the first syllable; then a hard o, then an ay - Hochoay. The linguistic experts have succeeded in getting an X used for this sound in Fodome Xelu.

Thirdly there is a sound like the ng in our word bung. The British simply write n for it. Its g element does not continue into the next syllable as in our bungalow; so something akin to the cockney's glottal stop is needed after it. Awuna was rewritten Anlo in a vain effort to get this across. Awunaga became Anloga which when pronounced has a twang in the n - Anglor-gar. But outside Eweland this could seem pedantic as Gold Coasters unfamiliar with Ewe would say Anlowgar.

There is also 'the plosive kp'. But if you do not bring out the K element at the beginning of Kpandu, Kpedze, Kpanda, and Kpalime (as this last is occasionally more correctly written) this will not matter greatly. But in Dzolo Kpuita and in Akpafu and Atakpame the k can be heard. Similarly with gb the g is only just heard e.g. in Gbefi, Gbi Bia.

In most languages the letter A is usually a hard sound as in pat rather than able; e.g. Bompata. At the end of names it is generally like our 'are' (e.g. Accra, Keta, Ada). This 'are' sound is also in the second syllable of Borada - Borarda, in Likpe Mate and in Pra (the river) and its various compounds. It is sometimes written aa as in Maaban and Maasi.

The U sound is usually our oo - Akoosay (Akuse), Abooree (Aburi), Daynoo (Denu) - not our 'ew' sound except in Nsuta.

I is often long like our ee sound, as in the final syllable of Secondee and Cocmaesie. But in Bimbila, Birim, Abirim, Kibi and Pinankro it is short as in 'it'. It never sounds like our 'eye' which has to be written ai as in Bekwai.

Ts and ch are different ways of writing the sound in our cheese - Tsito or Chito in Eweland. In Akan languages this sound is often written Ky - Akyem sounds Achem.

Ds and Dz are little different from our J - Dsoje has a soft o so is Johjay. The Akans have a very similar sound but usually transcribe it as Gy - as in Gyambra and Okagyakrom.

The Np combination at the start of Akan names sounds almost like Emp - Mpraeso sounds Empraeso. The Ns is almost Ens (Nsawam = Ensahwam) and the Nt is Ent (Ntronang sounds Entronang).

Goaso in Ashanti sounds like Gorso.

Stress

There are no standard rules on stress. In case of doubt give equal emphasis to each syllable. But here are the commonest names where there is stress with it indicated:

Aburi (Abooree), Accra (Accra), Adansi (a tribal area in Southern Ashanti much fought over), Akuse (Akoosay), Banda, Beraku (and Senya Beraku) (Berakoo), Berekum (Berekoom), Enchi, Juaben (Jewarben), Gambaga (Gambarga), Gomoa (Gomoh-a), Kibi (Kibbee), Kintampo, Koforidua (first o long, second short), Komenda, Konongo, Kpandu (Kpandoo), Kumasi (Koomassee), Kumawu, Labadi, Nkoranza (Enkoranza), Obuasi (Ohbooassee), Oda (Ohdar), Odumasi (Ohdoomassee), Prestea (Presteea), Sunyani (Sunyarni), Tamale, Tarkwa, Techiman (Tetchiman), Tema (Tayma), Wenchi (Wenshee), Worwora (this last sounds like two words).

BASE CENSORSHIP IN WEST AFRICA IN W.W. II

R.J. MADDOCKS

A propos my comments on 'Base Censor' in my article in January 1994 Cameo, I have since come across some further notes overlooked from my Gambia searches and these suggest that probably Base Censorship was in fact never introduced in West Africa. As usual information is meagre and comes from copies of just three messages exchanged between the General Officer in Command, West Africa and the War Office, London in early 1944.

In a message dated 11.2.44 the G.O.C, W.A was advised that (his?) proposal had been discussed and approval was given to institute base censorship in West Africa by existing intelligence staff to replace UK base censorship. All mail from each Unit should be re-censored approximately every eight weeks by irregular roster.

On 22.2.44 G.O.C responded that Base censorship was to be introduced at an early date. He added that there would be no change in parcel despatch arrangements. It was proposed to despatch surface letter mails direct to distribution offices as warranted in accordance with standing orders. Air letters did not warrant separate despatches but it was proposed to sort by counties as distinct from censor stamp numbers and suggested despatch to office adjacent to arrival point in the UK, rather than Foreign Section; if agreed, advise to which office. New arrangements to apply to military postings only and RAF mail would continue to be labelled to RAF Base Censors (in the UK?) ACC (Air Chief Commanding?) being advised of changes in case he wished to press for similar arrangements.

Then, on 9.3.44, the War Office messaged that on re-examination, it was decided that the introduction of Base censorship in West Africa was impracticable. Dispersion into four colonies and difficulties in obtaining suitable civilian examiners would involve retention of intelligence officers who might otherwise be dispensed with. Finally 16.5.45 the War Office instructed G.O.C to suspend Unit censorship but existing Base censorship would be retained. Here, it is assumed that the Base censorship referred to is that in the UK.

TOGO - THE 1/- ON EMERALD PAPER

P. FERNBANK

Following my article in the January 1994 issue of Cameo concerning the possible existence of the 1/- on emerald/pale olive back I received a most interesting letter from Steve Drewett of Empire Auctions. He informed me that he has handled two used copies of the Togo 1/- emerald surface/pale olive back, the last with a 'Lome - Togo' cds and a 1920 date, and that it is even rarer than the scarce emerald front and back (SG.53b). He also enclosed an extract from the Bright and Sons catalogue of 1923 (13th edition) where the pale olive back variety is listed but unpriced. The same catalogue priced SG.53b at £18 even then!

Regarding the scarcity of both shades of this Sept.1920 printing, Michael Ensor has suggested to me that the probable reason may be the transfer of Lome and Togoland to the French in September 1920. The Togo overprints remained valid into 1921 or 1922 when the League of Nations agreed to British Togo being administered as part of the Gold Coast. It is possible that the remaining stock of Togo stamps were destroyed at that time, and that the recently received supplies of the 1/- value were little used before being invalidated.

The statement in the Crown Agents bulletins, the two copies from this Pl.8 printing in the Colonial Office security printing archive, the two used copies seen and it's listing in the Bright and Sons catalogue would seem to confirm that the pale olive shade was issued, but it may well be one of the major rarities of the KG.V issues.

R.E. RICHARD DALWICK

P. BEALE

In 1913 'Dickie', as he was known to his friends, was a co-founder of Stamp Collecting together with D.B. Armstrong and Percy Bishop. For some time during the first world war he took over the Editorship while Armstrong was away on war service.

He was a pioneer aero philatelist and shared with H.C. Harmer in writing the standard work on the air stamps and flights of Newfoundland. One of his great interests was The Gambia and he took the lead in founding our Study Circle. This began at the Tunbridge Wells Congress in 1950. Within three years he and others had composed The Gambia, the first definitive work on the colony. Those who particularly helped him were Alfred Charlton with the postmarks, Colin McCaig and Dr. Kingsford on the halfpenny Cameo and the 1922-27 Elephant and Palm issue, R.A. McConaghey on plating the Cameos and L.V.S. Glover with overall assistance. This was the basis for the new work, The Stamps and Postal History of the Gambia produced by the Circle in 1985, edited by Oliver Andrew.

Soon after The Gambia was printed he went into retirement, following the sudden death of his wife. He died in 1971. For many years he had been a leading figure in British philately and in the stamp trade.

I am grateful to Len Weldhen who provided me with the obituary that appeared in Stamp Collecting. Len and I did not have the privilege of meeting him.

SIERRA LEONE
A FORGERY OF THE PROVISIONAL HALFPENNY OF 1893

PHILIP BEALE

Readers of my book *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* will have read the account of the clandestine printing that took place after these stamps had been overprinted at the Government printing works. The crime was discovered and was the subject of an official Enquiry held before the Governor. Evidence was given by the Postmaster who mentioned that a Mr Zissler - whose name is well known from envelopes addressed to him at that period - had written asking for examples of any varieties of the overprints and, in particular, for an example printed in one line. The normal overprint is in two lines, half above the penny.

The late Colin McCaig had an example of the one line overprint, which is the only recorded copy. The perpetrator obviously had access to the stock of Post Office datestamps and obliterations for he applied a rather heavy impression of Type 12 to the stamp. Frank Walton has kindly photographed the stamp for me and provided an enlargement which is shown below.

Forged overprint in one line



DESIGNER OF SIERRA LEONE KG VI DEFINITIVES

N. LUTWYCHE

In chapter 17 in his handbook on Sierra Leone, Philip Beale gives a interesting account of the design of the 1933 Wilberforce issue by Father F. Welch. Later on, in chapter 21, when discussing the design of the King George VI definitive issues, he indicates that the designer of the successful design produced by Waterlow and Sons was one of Waterlow's own artists.

At a recent auction I bought a 1939 cover from Fuchun to Canberra, Australia, which bore a halfpenny and penny-halfpenny definitive, both cancelled by a FÜJEHUN 'star' 24 mm cds of 7 April, 1939 (Walton type 129.01). On the reverse of the cover is a FREETOWN code A cds postmark dated 8 April, 1939. (I cannot classify this cds but it appears to be 23 or 23.5 mm in diameter). Also on the reverse is a Canberra postmark of 27 May, 1939, as the cover was redirected from Canberra to Melbourne.

Returning to the front of the cover there is under the stamps a manuscript inscription "with the designer's compliments/F. Welch." On the reverse is typewritten "If undelivered Please return to F. Welch, Fuchun, Sierra Leone, B.W Africa."

Being ignorant of these matters, I do not know if Father Welch was indeed the designer of these stamps. The borders of both the Wilberforce issue and the 1938 definitive issue can be said to bear a similar style of allegorical design in squares and rectangles rather than in ovals or circles. I assume that if he was the artist, Waterlows would have given due acknowledgement. As this did not happen, I also assume that Father Welch submitted designs to the Crown Agents (either off his own bat or at their behest) and that it was his suggestions which merely formed the basis of the tenders for the King George VI definitives.



Anna Fitzgerald

~~Brassy House~~ of L. Fitzgerald Esq.

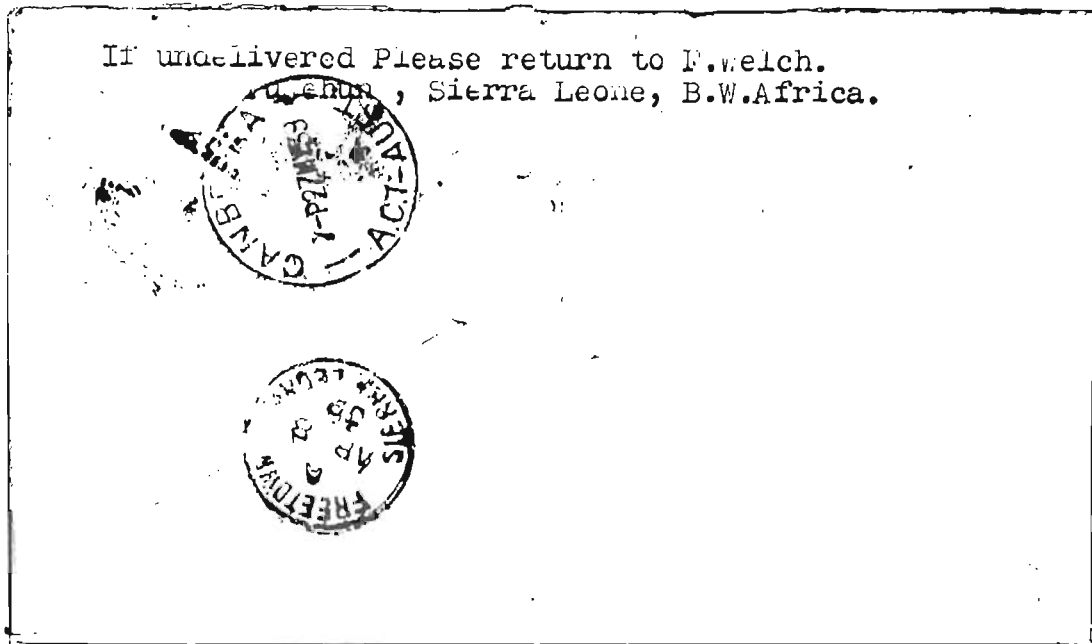
*with the designer's compliments
Welch*

~~Canberra F.T.C.~~ Literary Staff.

~~AUSTRALIA.~~

Sun News Pictorial
Flinders Street
MELBOURNE CI

If undelivered Please return to F. Welch.
Freetown, Sierra Leone, B.W. Africa.



MADAME JOSEPH FORGED POSTMARKS

J.J. MARTIN

Author: Derek Worboys, edited by Roger B. West, Published 1994 by The Royal Philatelic Society, London and The British Philatelic Trust. Available at £25.

This is an essential reference work for all W.A.S.C. members since it includes forged postmarks, all illustrated, from Ascension, Camerouns, Gambia, Gold Coast, the Nigerias, St Helena, Sierra Leone and Togo, i.e. every area we collect.

It is believed that the forgeries were produced between 1935 approximately and 1960 so there are likely to be many examples around.

Our own member Roger West has edited the 122 page hard-bound book and can be proud of his achievement.

John Sacher writes that after studying Madame Joseph the Northern Nigeria cds type 1a illustrated in "The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region" is a forgery. The known examples are of the same date as in the handstamp of the Madame Joseph Handstamp Collection.

NIGERIAN EXPERIMENTAL AIR MAIL SERVICES: NOVEMBER 1931

JEREMY MARTIN

I wrote about this subject in the January 1984 issue of Cameo, whole number 19. In that article, I quoted extracts from P.O. Archives.

David Bocock has come across copies of letters from Capt. S.P. George at Owerri, S. Nigeria to Francis Field Ltd: the airmail specialists. Relevant extracts are quoted.

The first is dated 29.1.32:

"With reference to your two letters of the 16th December 1931 asking me to make you offers of the First Flight Lagos - Port Harcourt covers and the non-flown Port Harcourt - Tiko (Camerouns) covers. I regret that you have put me in an impossible position as I cannot put a price upon the first knowing only of 8 covers carried although there were probably others but the P.M. Surveyor does not feel inclined to give me the exact information.

As for the second - I know nothing of the special market in postmarks of this sort and am, therefore, quite unable to quote".

The follow up letter dated 22nd March 1932 was in response to offers from Francis Field Ltd:

"... I am prepared to let you have four of the flown covers at £10 each and six postmarks at 25/- each. The postmarks on all the covers are good....

You will note that I have sent you 2 of the covers with the normal postmark on the stamp and Air Mail postmark on the face of the cover and two of the covers which have the Air Mail postmarks twice and no normal.

In case it is of interest to you, the name of the ship which took the Buea covers from P.H. (Port Harcourt J.J.M.) when the mail was not flown, is (sic) the "Sir George" Elder Dempster's small coastal passenger and mail boat well known to every Nigerian.

Alexander Newall F.R.P.S.L., in his book 'British External Airmails until 1934' for the Lagos - Warri - Port Harcourt notes 172 covers carried and 30 on the reverse leg.

'THE CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS OF NIGERIA 1914-1980'

J.J. MARTIN

This book of 275 pages represents thirty years research by our member Neville Jones. Its scope is truly monumental, setting out to list all known postmarks from 1914 to the chosen cut-off date of 1980.

Neville himself says that still new discoveries are being made but probably little of real importance. This book will be the standard reference work for many years.

Earliest and latest dates, where known, are provided but your reviewer would like to have seen these for the various cachets, such as 'LATE FEE' and 'POSTED ON TRAIN' having a particular interest in this field of collecting. However, T.P.O., and Mobile P.O., are not only included but dates are also given.

At just over 1/2d per page, a bargain. Available to members at a special price of £12 ring-bound + p & p £2.80.

SIERRA LEONE - COMBRAYMAH

John A. Hossack

I recently obtained a copy of the short-lived COMBRAYMAH oval postmark (Beale Type 19; Walton no. 026.01), struck in red on SG 24. In 1885 Combraymah became the first Post Office in Sierra Leone to be closed, having been in use for just one year. The only example of the mark previously recorded was overstruck by the B31 obliterator (see 'The Sierra Leone Post Office ovals', C. McCaig, Cameo, vol. 1, no. 4. p. 87).



GOLD COAST Q.E.II AEROGRAMMES

Jeremy Martin

The Christie's Robson Lowe sale of the Bradbury Wilkinson archives on April 21 1993 contained one lot of considerable interest to Gold Coast collectors. This consisted of aerogrammes, some overprinted specimen in red and perforated specimen (Samual Type B9) but also 'essays' not seen before.

In roughly chronological order they were:

- i) The 1953 6d Higgins and Gage 4. The order was dated 10.12.53 and 200, numbered, 1 to 200 were overprinted SPECIMEN in red 48 1/2 x 7mm sans-serif capitals and the stamp was perforated with the horse-shoe specimen Samual Type B9. What is interesting is that the lot contained 131 examples. The remaining 60 were accounted for on a list which indicated that they had been used for, or shown to, other territories for their consideration.
- ii) There was one example which was possibly an essay. It was exactly the same as the above 131 but the face panel and the quarter next to the face panel had had a poorish quality grey-black surround overlay.
- iii) The 1956 6d H & G 6. The order was dated '-/11/56' and 50, numbered 201 to 250, were overprinted and perforated specimen exactly as above. There were 32 examples in the sale. Numbers 201-218 were listed under 'Final Recipient' as, for example, 'Burma agents', 'Thailand offer', 'Falkland Is. tender', 'Falkland tender', 'Kuwait Min:Posts' etc.
- iv) Finally, there were four examples, cut square, in the same design as H & G 6 but on brownish-grey paper both sides and without watermark. Not overprinted or perforated SPECIMEN.

To the writer's knowledge, this type was not issued so it seems to have been some sort of essay.

This note is completed by an illustration of the Bradbury, Wilkinson register that went with the SPECIMENS.

SECURITY CONTROL PROCEDURES

COMMERCIAL SPECIMEN REGISTER

CUSTOMER: GOLD COAST AIR LETTER FORMS
DENOMINATION : 6d
ORDER NUMBER : 0/101596 DATE : -/11/56
TOTAL : 50 NOS : 201 TO : 250

Spec No	Date of issue	Received by	Dept	Album No	Final Recipient	Date Returned
201	12/2/57	VMG	MUTILATED for destruction		for paste-up	Ret'd ? 4.4.84
202	20/2/57	ABE				
203					Burma agents	
204	29.3.57	VMG			for paste-up	
205	15.4.57				Bechuanaland	
206	17.6.57	D.C	for destruction	4.4.84	Litho	Ret'd
207	17.9.57	"	"	"	Litho	Ret'd Dirty
208	27/9/57	BJW			Thailand offer	
209	20/11/57	ABE				
210	6/2/58				Guatemala Agents	
211	23/5/58	G.G			Falkland IS tender	
212	5/7/58	RSS			Litho	Ret'd
212	9/7/58	CR	for destruction	4.4.84	Litho	Ret'd
213	1/7/58	RGS				
214	17/2/60	JBG			Falkland tender	
215	19/6/61	RGS			New York	
216	"	"			"	
217	10/4/62				Kuwait Min: Posts	
218	3/9/63				Afghanistan	

NOTES ON POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN WEST AFRICA DURING W.W.I.

R. J. MADDOCKS

In 1914 the Committee of Imperial Defence in London recommended the establishment of a partial or complete censorship of all postal matter for specific countries. The Post Office was to be responsible for carrying out the censorship and the Admiralty and the War Office, in consultation with the Foreign Office, were responsible for notifying what those countries should be.

The Overseas Defence Committee accordingly advised overseas governments and stated the desirability of establishing, at the discretion of the Governor, a censor station at Gibraltar, Malta, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Singapore and Ceylon. Other colonial Governors were advised to obtain statutory powers for establishment of postal censorship where possible and where it was felt such powers might be required.

Initially, colonial censorship was instituted by the various governments concerned with little or no guidance from the home government. The Colonial Office, ultimately responsible for the well being and conduct of most, contented itself by the bare transmission to them of instruction issued in the United Kingdom. It did not concern itself with making any suggestions for implementation, improvements or in any way correcting the problems faced through lack of centralisation of orders and intelligence. By the end of 1914 or early 1915 copies of instructions to UK examiners were being sent to all the colonial censorships. Furthermore an enquiry or questionnaire was addressed to them in order to ascertain whether there was any uniformity of practice in regard to the treatment of censorship matters.

Inter colonial mails were left to colonial censorship except for those written in obscure languages which were sent to London for reading. These included certain Indian languages used in letters between West Coast of Africa, Gibraltar, Malta and India; if these could not be read in London they were then sent to Bombay for censorship.

An outline summary on censorship operations during the war years in each of the British West African colonies and protectorates and in the two former German colonies of Cameroons and Togoland invaded and occupied by Anglo-French Forces is given hereunder.

1. CAMEROONS AND TOGOLAND - EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

For the British Contingents of the Anglo-French West African Expeditionary Forces there was a Field Censorship conducted during operations under the General Officer commanding the Troops in accordance with Field Service Regulations. Under these Regulations all correspondence from the Troops was required to be posted in boxes or at offices controlled by the Army Postal Service (which was attached to the Royal Engineers). Such stationary offices were known at General Headquarters in Duala and Lome in each country respectively. Details of introduction and enforcement are not known. As the military campaigns progressed civil mails also came under Field Censorship.

2. THE GAMBIA

Censorship was conducted by the Officer in Command of the West African Frontier Force at Bathurst from August 1914 to September 1915 and thereafter by the Receiver General (Postmaster General) until stopped on 28 May 1919 when the Colonial Officer instructed that it was no longer necessary.

An Ordinance (no 18 of 1915) was passed in the Colony on 30.8.15 to amend the Post Office Ordinance of 1912 so as to prohibit non-postal communications, except "ship-owners letters" (viz Bills of Lading, invoices etc. relating to cargo carried) and to prohibit correspondence written in invisible ink. It gave power to require declarations from and to search persons loading and embarking, with authority to the Receiver General and other persons to examine letters found on such searches.

All mails to and from neutral countries were censored. Correspondence with Syrians (said to be the only enemies) to Beyrouth (?) was stopped. All

official correspondence was exempt from censorship as was correspondence of British officials and private persons and also of Consular representatives. Parcels and printed matter were reported as not dealt with. It was also stated that there were no Prisoners of War in the Colony and Protectorate.

3. GOLD COAST

Following the Defence of the Colony Ordinance of 1914, Censorship was under the local government and conducted by government officers specially seconded for the service or who combined it with their regular duties. For the most part these officers were the Provincial and District Commissioners. In Accra, it was necessary to appoint several Assistant Censors drawn from various Departments. Censorship Headquarters was in Accra with out-stations at Secondee, Tarquah, Axim and Dunkwa.

Mails censored were those to and from neutral European countries, the United States and South America, Canary Islands and Liberia. Also those addressed to and from the following Post Offices in the Gold Coast:- Accra, Dodawa, Aburi, Manguasi, Nsawan, Koforidua, Sumanza, Adawso, Appam, and Winnebah. Also, those addressed to and from German missionaries and the Basel Mission Factory. In Secondee, Tarquah, Axim and Dunkwa, all letters directed to or emanating from countries other than the United Kingdom or British colonies were censored. Letters to and from the British Empire, France and Belgium (except those of German missionaries) were exempt. (The Basel Missionhaus at Basel, Switzerland was regarded as a centre of German political intrigue).

All parcels from neutral countries were censored if addressed to firms or persons likely to receive contraband. All printed matter was censored with papers printed in Germany being detained.

Prisoners of War - when there were enemy aliens, other than missionaries interned in Accra, letters addressed to them were duly censored. After their deportation to England, their letters were forwarded to the Prisoner of War Returned Letter Bureau, London (no mention is made of mails from PoWs).

On 31 July 1916 an Order in Council under Section 8 of the Defence of the Colony Ordinance 1914 (as amended 1915) authorised censorship of all postal matter, confirmed the existing (censorship) officers and ordered the reference of all detained matter to the Colonial Secretary or the Attorney General; no exceptions were made.

4. NIGERIA

No regulations governing Postal Censorship were apparently issued. Censorship was conducted at the ports of Lagos by the Colonial Secretary and at Bonny by the Divisional Marine Officer and Supervisor of Customs.

At Lagos, all German, Austrian and Ottoman terminal letters were examined; also those of a suspicious nature from whatever source they emanated, including mails to and from the Spanish island of Fernando Po and those addressed to individuals who, for any reason, were under suspicion. All official letters were exempt. No special measures were taken for dealing with parcels and printed matter. All Prisoner of War mails were examined.

At Bonny all letters to and from Syrian traders were examined. All official correspondence and letters from firms of repute were exempt. There were no Prisoners of War here, Censorship ceased following instructions from the Colonial Office on 28.5.1919 that it was no longer necessary. Bonny was the junction point between the west and south African cable system to Europe.

5. SIERRA LEONE

The Governor was authorised to make regulations inter alia with regard to censorship and control and suppression of publications, writings, maps, plans, photographs, communications and means of communications under Order in Council of 26 October 1896 as subsequently amended. He made regulations on 17.7.1916 called Censorship (Evasion) Regulations 1916 to prevent unauthorised non-postal communication out of the Colony. The Regulations gave authority for search and seizure of and for arrest without warrant of carriers except when

the carriers satisfied the Customs Officers etc. that the communication did not contain information useful to the enemy.

The local Defence Scheme charged the Military Authorities with the general direction of the cable censorship and the General Staff was assigned with such duty. On the institution of postal censorship it was considered that the same system should apply and arrangements were made accordingly. The censorship was conducted by the civil officers of the local government holding warrants from the Governor and working under the supervision of the General Staff Officer.

Two officers were sent out from the UK censorship office in 1917 when it was understood from the Admiralty that neutral ships carrying privileged correspondence might be detained for examination at Freetown. (Neutral ships were increasingly reluctant to put into UK ports because of intense German submarine activity in British coastal waters). These officers undertook the superintendence of censorship of only transit mails passing through Freetown and were eventually absorbed into the local censorship. In the event the expenses of their despatch which were borne by the War Office were not justified.

Mails to and from enemy countries, Spanish Guinea, Canary Islands and Liberia were examined. Also letters addressed to foreigners in Sierra Leone, except the French, and suspect letters to and from the Protectorate, Nigeria and the Cameroons.

Exempt from censorship were official mails; the mails to and from friendly governments and consulates and those to persons in Sierra Leone and British and Allied territory if not emanating from a neutral or enemy country and if not otherwise suspect. All parcels were scrutinised as was all printed matter which, if necessary, was censored.

Prisoners of War mail were examined. Prisoners were brought in by HM ships off captured German vessels, taken from British merchant ships and there were also local internees. They were held at Fourah Bay College and at the Model School by the Military Authorities for a few months only after the outbreak of war before being transferred to England.

Censorship of non-terminal mails stopped in January 1919 and of all other mails in July 1919 when the Colonial Office advised it was no longer necessary.

The foregoing has been compiled from various sources, each of very meagre information on postal censorship in WW1. However, the gelling factor eventually came from sundry official correspondence and reports in the National Archives, Banjul, fortuitously found when researching other aspects of postal history during my residence in the Gambia. By courtesy of the Archivist relevant details were extracted from those records, which included one on the introduction and organisation of postal censorship in the Colonies during WWI - a report issued post-war but undated and not attributed but undoubtedly of London origin, probably the Chief Postal Censor's office which could have collated reports sent in by the Colonies concerned - Cameroons and Togoland excepted.

Had time permitted these notes would have been available to Messrs Walton and Martin for their fine study "West African Censorship WWI & II", published early last year. However, I became aware of their work only on my return from the Gambia and shortly before they went to press. Moreover my work commitments prevented my conveying other than a cursory outline of my findings as my notes still had to be transcribed into a meaningful dissertation.

NIGERIA: 1953 DEFINITIVES COMMEMORATIVE PRESENTATION BOOKLET

A.J. Plumb

This "Booklet" was given by the Minister of Communications to each member of the Council of Ministers on 1 September 1953. Thirteen such "Booklets" are thought to have been issued; their thick external card covered in green measures 21.5 x 12.7 cm. The stamps are held in clear glassine strips, three to a page, with a description below each of what is depicted. "With the compliments of/ the Minister of Communications, Nigeria./To commemorate a new issue of postage stamps;/ on 1st September, 1953/Lagos." is printed inside the front cover, while on the inside of the back cover it reads "This series of postage stamps has been/produced by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., London,/ from original designs prepared by the artist,/M. Maurice Fievet." A sample of the front cover and one of the pages is reproduced below.



5/- "PALM OIL."

Palm oil is one of Nigeria's principal exports, and the south-eastern districts have long been famous for this trade, which at one time even gave its name to that part of the territory. The "Oil Rivers Protectorate," which existed from 1885 to 1893, comprised very roughly the area now known as the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria. The design shows, in the inset, a typical scene of palm oil, in drums, being loaded on board ship at one of the smaller ports, with the tree and fruit in the surround.



10/- "HIDES AND SKINS."

Hides and Skins are another of the important exports from Nigeria; the skins of the Sokoto red goats producing one of the best qualities of fine leather in the world. The design shows cattle and goats in the inset, and in the surround frames of drying skins, and a Fulani cattle herd. The cattle from which the hides are obtained are mostly, though not wholly, owned by the nomadic Fulani, a shy pastoral people living in Northern Nigeria and in the French Sudan.



£1 "NEW AND OLD LAGOS."

The design shows, in the lower half, a Lagos scene soon after the foundation of the Colony of Lagos in the middle of the nineteenth century, with craft of the period; and, in the upper half, the waterfront of modern Lagos.

Front Cover - Gold Star on Green

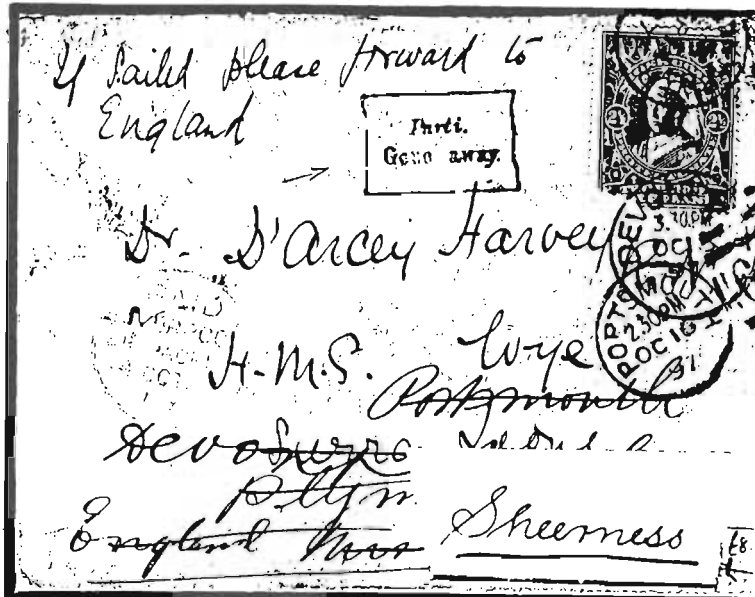


BAG LABEL LIVERPOOL TO SIERRA LEONE

J.F. INCE

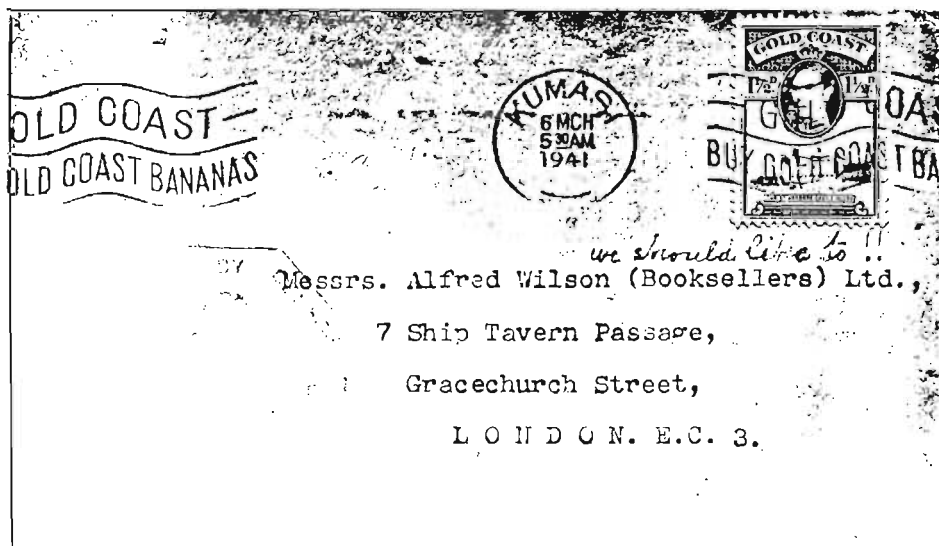
With reference to the illustration on p. 256 of January 1994 Cameo concerning the bag label carried per OHMS on "British War Ship" Wye, I note that the date is believed to be circa 1902-1905.

This date of course can be verified from naval records but in my erstwhile Niger Coast collection I possessed a cover to the surgeon aboard HMS Wye at Freetown date stamped at Bonny on 14 September 1897. The cover was readdressed variously to Plymouth, Portsmouth, Devonport and Sheerness. HMS Wye obviously was one of the ships either stationed for some years, or, more likely, returned to the W. Africa Squadron after King Edward VII accession to the throne late in 1901 or 1902.



N.B. It is interesting to note that the instructional mark Parti Gone Away is only the second known example of such mark applied in Sierra Leone It was applied on 30.9.97. Ed

BANANAS



NIGERIA THE 1986

JEREMY MARTIN

Recently I purchased some 'kiloware' of the above stamps and have spent some hours checking them for varieties. Several are unimportant, such as blobs of colour but others appear to be constant. I have not yet checked the watermarks.

- SG 515 5k Row 9 stamp 1 'Hook' to tail of 'k' in '5k' shades vary from pale blue, pale yellow to blue, yellow-orange.
- SG 516 10k Printings vary between light and dark.
- SG 517 15k Frame break in bow of ship.
Black spot to left of upright mast (2 copies).
Vertical hairline in front of prow (2 copies).
- SG 518 20k 'L' in 'LTD' missing.
'Co' missing from imprint.
No comma in front of TECOMA (many).
White square in centre leaf of left green leaves (2 copies).
Veins in leaves vary from clearly defined to white marks.
- SG 519a 30k Dancers pale brown to dark brown.
- SG 521 40k Dancers brown to black.
- SG 522 45k All printing appears double. Being submitted for a certificate.
- SG 523 50k There is a break of about 0.75mm in the barrier by the right-hand lady assistant. Appears to be on all stamps on row 9 and seems to have been on 1986 printings through to now.
Blue stop after 'NIGERIA' (2 copies).
Brown spot in upper left corner (2 copies).
early printings grey-brown in 'kiloware' more red-brown.
Background upper left below 'N' of 'NIGERIA' almost white.
- SG 525 2n Table varies from dark blue-green to yellow-green.

Besides recording these discoveries, I would like to make the point that there is plenty of interest in these modern definitive issues which do not require a deep pocket to acquire enough to study. In particular I would like to hear of any other varieties discovered by members and particularly positional pieces containing the varieties named above or those other varieties discovered by members.

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Are you a specialist collector of material from any of the 54 countries which were at one time part of British Africa? I have good stocks of stamps and postal history from most countries and I try to keep in stock the more difficult high values, particularly used.

Why not let me have a note of your missing items. My prices are very competitive.

**ROBERT SEAMAN,
COPT HALL, STOCK ESSEX CM4 9BA**



- ASCENSION: 1922 1sh on blue-grey (instead of blue-green) paper. Scarce and unlisted. £65
- ASCENSION: 1938 printings of KGVI definitive set complete used on series of four 1938 Wilson covers. £150
- GAMBIA: 1886-87 6d deep bronze-green used on 1902 registered cover to Troy, Ohio. Adhesive has a slightly rounded corner. Attractive and very nice usage of this denomination. £400
- GAMBIA: 1898-1902 QV key plate set overprinted "Specimen" in pairs. Very fine. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein. £175
- GAMBIA: 1898 1sh used on 1901 registered cover to Hull. Some cover faults, but scarce usage. Ex Dale-Lichtenstein. £275
- GAMBIA: 1902 3d cold purple and ultramarine shade. Fine mint - £35. Fine used. £47.50
- GAMBIA: Half cover bearing 1938 2sh through 10sh cancelled by BATHURST (error) 5 August 38 c.d.s.'s (cancel in use from 5-11 August 1938). Rare cancel on these values. £200
- GOLD COAST: 1895 cover from Akropong to Aburi bearing 1884 1d showing extremely rare "Missent to Accra" handstamp. Backflap missing, nice exhibition piece. £800
- GOLD COAST: 1889 10sh dull mauve and carmine shade fresh fine mint. £135
- NIGER COAST: 1894 (Jan.) 2d bisect and 1894 (June) 1d bisect used together on 1894 registered cover to Liverpool with 1892 2d and 1894 (Jan) 1d. Some very light staining and creasing (not affecting adhesives). Rare, ex Preston and Dale-Lichtenstein. £1,100

ST. HELENA: 1903 1/2d with inverted watermark fine used. £75

ST. HELENA: 1922 1d Imperf Printer's Sample on Gummed Paper in Grey-Green & Purple overprinted "Specimen". £250

ST. HELENA: 1961 Tristan Relief Set used on unaddressed first day cover. RPS Certificate. £1,200

SIERRA LEONE: 1903 registered cover to Switzerland bearing 1894 1d on 6d fiscal, 1884-93 1/2d, 1896-97 2d and 1903 1d (paying 2 1/2d rate plus 2d registry fee). £125

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