

CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

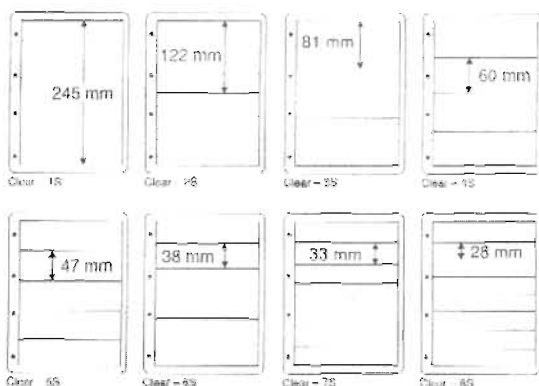


VOLUME 9 NUMBER 3
WHOLE NUMBER 67

JANUARY 2006

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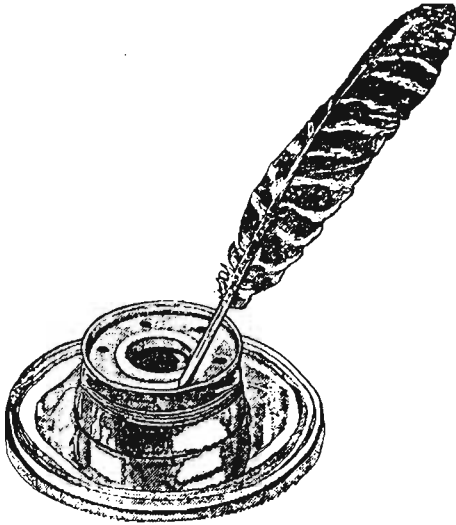
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Front Cover

Sierra Leone: FPO142 cover of 22 June 2000
from 1 Para serving in the Sierra Leone crisis.

*See article by Marc Parren on page 161 regarding the
recent postal service in Liberia and relating to UN forces
serving there and in the area.*

Letters to the Editor



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

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

The joint editors' addresses are listed on the front page of all Cameo issues.

Rob May

Togo Mail from Tokpli

Dear Rob,

John Mayne (Cameo October 2005 p114) asked for thoughts on the last sentence of the message. In full it reads "Je suis en ce moment au fond de la brousse du Togo ou je fais remarquer une ancienne briqueterie et tuilerie boche! Je supplie Mr le censeur de laisser passer malgré ce mot 'boche'" and translates to "I am presently in the depths of the Togo bush where I am getting an old Boche brick and tile works working again. I beg the censor to let this pass in spite of the word 'boche'" .

With best wishes

Barbara Priddy
Wimbledon Park

Ed—Rudolf Lazar also offered a similar translation with an understandable comment that the word boche was "hardly being used in a benevolent mood"!

Tiko parcel postmark

Dear Rob,

I refer to page 110 of the October 2005 *Cameo*. I enclose a photocopy of another, almost complete example of this mark for your information. I have other parcel marks not recorded by Proud or Jones if you are interested; for Afikpo, Burutu, Duchin-Wai, Eket, Forcados, Funtua, Gusau, Ibi, Ikorodu, Kaura Namoda, Kударu, Offa, Ogwashi-Uku and Umuahia.

R P Allen
Beaconsfield



Cameroun 1961 Surcharges - update

Dear Rob,

This is a brief status report regarding progress to plate the twelve stamps revalued in Sterling currency and issued by Cameroun on 1 October 1961. The plating of the 1½d and 3d stamps has been completed and published in previous Cameos and plating of the 1/- appears from page 129 of this issue. The study of other denominations continues, but I am short of critical mass of many values.

The 4d on 15 franc coffee stamp is proving most interesting. The sheet consists of 50 stamps, arranged 5 x 10. No proof impressions—if any exist—have been located, so plating has relied upon examination of multiples of the issued stamp. In addition to material in the author's collection multiples, ranging from pairs to blocks of 10, have been provided by Nick Carter, Brian Lythgoe, Bob Maddocks & Rob May. The quantity of material presently to hand is not sufficient to completely plate this stamp, but is sufficient to conclude that there was either more than one overprint plate or that the plate was modified during the print run. Based on postmark dates of used stamps we can also conclude that all of the stamps were available for sale on the issue date or shortly thereafter.

To assist with the further plating of the 4d stamp, as well as other values in the set, readers are asked to loan any multiples which may be residing in their collections. Alternatively, colour photocopies or electronic scans—at 300 dpi and enlarged to 150% - are solicited. Also please alert me of any multiples that are offered for sale.

Collectively we can unravel some of the mysteries surrounding this issue. Please contact me at the address listed in the Circle membership list or by e-mail at marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca

Marty Bratzel
Windsor, Ont
Canada

 **Nigeria—update on perforations 1999-2001**

Dear Rob,

Two articles in Cameo (Lazar no 57 page 210 and May no 59 page 323) have provided information on the perforation changes of stamps printed in these years. This note adds items not previously reported.

The set for the Centenary of the Nigerian Railway Corporation in 1999 has the N5, N10 and N30 as perf 13 and the N20 as perf 14. No stamp has yet been recorded with both. Also in 1999 the set for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency has been seen with both perforations on the N5 and N30, with the N10 perf 14 only and the N20 perf 13 only.

In 2000 the whole Sydney Olympics set has now been seen with both perforations, completing the set reported by Rudolf Lazar, and in the 40th Anniversary of Independence set the N30 is now seen to exist with both perforations. The N10 Rain Forest stamp of 2001 has been seen with both. Also seen, and listed by Gibbons as 781a (GSM April 2005) is the N30 Preuss's Guenon with perf 14.

Ray Harris
Swanley, Kent

 **Norman Bennet in Sierra Leone**

Dear Rob,

I enclose a photocopy of the reverse of a postcard illustrating Hamworthy Church, UK, and its rector the Rev. Norman Bennet. I am illustrating the reverse for inclusion in Cameo in case other members of WASC have any Sierra Leone correspondence from or to the Rev. Norman Bennet.

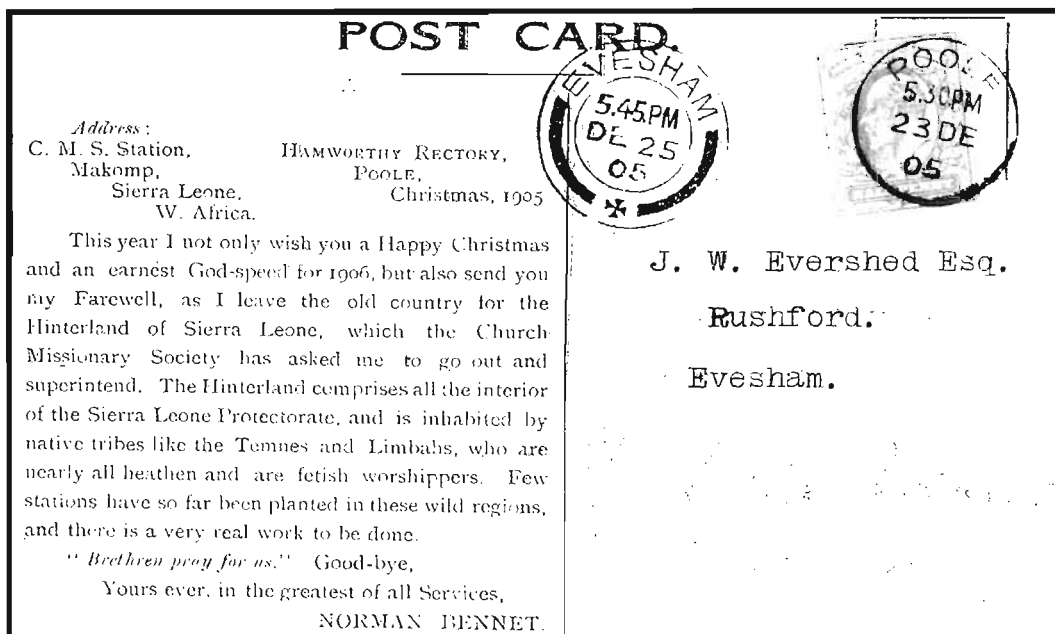
Tom Butlin

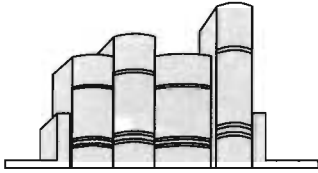
South

WASC Study Editors are also available for queries and to help edit articles

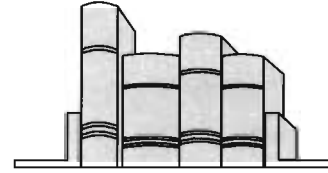
- Airmails – Barbara Priddy
- Ascension – Bernard Hughes
- Biafra – Dudley Prestedge
- Cameroons – Marty Bratzel
- Gambia – Oliver Andrew
- Ghana – Ian Anderson
- Gold Coast – Peter Newroth
- Lagos – John Sacher
- Maritime – John Knight
- Nigerias to 1914 – John Sacher
- Nigeria post 1914 – Tony Plumble
- St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone – Phillip Beale & Peter Rolfee
- Togo – Jeremy Martin

Croydon






Bookshelf



Distribution of West Africa Study Circle publications has been changed. Please send orders and payments to the Treasurer (address on contents page). Authors will distribute their own new publications to members, whilst distribution of purchases from older stocks is arranged via the Treasurer.

 *Under a Tree called Gbendeh* by Donald W. Carter, published by Authorhouse in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 2005. 322 pages, paperback. ISBN 1-4184-9360-0, Library of Congress 2004096744. Available from Amazon in the UK at around £9 or from booksellers anywhere. Also available directly from the publishers at www.authorhouse.com at US\$16. Reviewed by Frank Walton.

This non-philatelic book, written by a WASC member based in Wisconsin, USA, is sub-titled 'Mature reflections on the life of a missionary child in Colonial Sierra Leone'. There are 21 independent chapters covering a diverse range of topics; a brief history and geography of the colony is provided, but these are not the book's strength. The charm of this publication is the first hand account of what life was like growing up in Makeni in the 1930s. The stories of Don's missionary father doing battle with the local troublemakers - whether they be human or leopards - are worth the purchase price itself! There are four or five pages of information on the postal service, but this is not the reason you should buy this book. Highly recommended.



Auction Report Togo at Spink 27 October 2005



The Togo collection formed by Dr Ignis Retief of South Africa was offered as part of a general sale. It was noticeable that while many of the lots did not reach estimate there were, by comparison with those of the countries immediately preceding Togo, very few which did not sell. Some of the more interesting items are described below. The last column shows the hammer price and does not include buyers' premium of 15% plus VAT, which together adds just over 17.5%

German Administration

2306	An undated 5pf postcard to Hamburg with 3x3pf (one bisected), manuscript "Little Popo" in red and the stamps cancelled by a framed "Aus West Afrika/mit/Hamburger Dampfer"	Est £150-180	£290
2308	17 Oct 1896 parcel card to Hamburg cancelled "KLEIN-POPO"	Est £250-300	£450
2310	Used collection 1897 3pf to 50 pf with 25pf (4) and 50pf (5), 1900 3pf to 5m with 1m (3) and 2m (3) and 1909 10pf (3)	Est £400-500	£650
2311	1898-1914 envelope, 3 letters and 2 cards from the "Trooper Schultze" correspondence including 1898 card from Dahomey to Germany with "Grand Popo" cds, 1904 returned envelope from Germany to S W Africa ?, 1910 unstamped card from Kokumbo to Palime and 1911 card from Accra to Togo with "Deutsche Seepost" datestamp	Est £120-150	£85

British Administration—1914 wide setting

2319	3pf to 40pf, 80pf, ½d on 3pf and 1d on 5pf with duplication, mint	Est £400-500	£350
2320	3pf to 40pf, 80pf and 1d on 5pf, mint	Est £300-350	£240
2321	3pf to 40pf used with some duplication	Est £200-250	£140
2322	Mint and used collection including 1d on 5pf with 'TOG' in block of 9	Est £350-400	£280
2324	40pf mint. BPA certificate	Est £60-70	£100
2325	40pf used. BPA certificate	Est £70-90	£130
2326	80pf mint and mounted only on top margin. BPA certificate	Est £60-80	£130
2327	80pf used. BPA certificate	Est 100-£120	£80
2328	1m mint. Bothe and BPA certificates	Est £2000-2500	n/s
2329	1m mint mounted only on top margin. Holcombe certificate	Est £2000-2500	£1600
2330	1m used Lome. BPA certificate	Est £800-1000	£850
2331	1m mint with broken F in French. BPA and three other certificates	Est £3000-3500	£3200

1914 narrow setting

2332	Mint & used incl. 30pf corner block of 6, ½d on 3pf 'thin y' (2), 1d on 5pf 'thin y' (40) and 'TOG' (3)	Est £400-500	£280
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1915 Sansane-Mangu

2337	5pf and 10pf each used on small piece. BPA certificates	Est £70-90	£80
2338	10pf mint (3)	Est £150-180	£100
2339	20pf unused. BPA certificate	Est £500-600	£480

1915 overprinted in Accra

2344	½d to 20s incl 3d white back, mint, each with small F variety	Est 200-250	£190
2346	½d yellow-green two panes, one complete, one with both 'CUPATION' and 'CCUPATION' cut out	Est £60-80	£150
2350	1d overprint double, mint	Est £60-80	£140
2351	1d overprint inverted, mint. BPA certificate	Est £50-60	£80
2352	1d overprint inverted used on piece	Est £80-100	£180
2353	2d 'CCUPATION' mint	Est £50-60	£110
2354	6d 'CCUPATION' marginal mint	Est £50-60	£90
2355	2s 'CCUPATION' mint	Est £120-150	£200
2356	2s6d 'CCUPATION' mint	Est £200-250	£200
2357	20s small F marginal mint with plate no 1	Est £100-120	£160

1916 overprinted in London

2361	Blocks of varying sizes and margins, including plate blocks ½d plates 5 and 8, 3d plate 5, 6d plates 5 and 6(2), 5s plate 8 and 10s plate 6	Est £150-180	£420
2362	6d watermark inverted mint marginal block of 4	Est £120-150	£220
2363	1s black on emerald mint	Est £80-100	£140

Postal stationery, covers and cancellations

2365	Envelopes (9), a postcard and a piece including postmarks for Agbeluehoe (1), Assahun (2), Lome (7) and Station Palime	Est £100-120	£240
2369	1920 (12 Feb) envelope to England with HO/TOGOLAND skeleton cds and backstamped Station Palime, Lome and Accra	Est £100-120	£190

French Administration

2370	Mainly used collection with blocks of the '10' on 5pf, 20pf and 25pf	Est £800-1000	£550
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Senegal “Aviso Postal” - Response

Peter Kelly & Alain Millet

I was most interested by the articles by John Mayne (Refs 1 & 2) and John Sacher (Ref 3) concerning West African coastal services and, in particular, the beautiful “Aviso Postal / Senegal” cover provided by John Sacher. This rang a distant bell with me and I remembered having seen this cancellation, together with an earlier and totally different version in the *Catalogue des estampilles postales de la France* (Yvert & Tellier, Amiens 1929) but there was little detail given about it.

Out of curiosity I wished to learn a little more about these marks and I contacted Alain Millet in France, a specialist in French colonial postal history and he has been able to provide a considerable amount of additional information in the form of examples of these handstamps from his own collection and source documentation, both of which he has copied to me and has very kindly authorised me to use it in this article.

First of all there is a specific reference in the *Annuaire du Sénégal et Dependances pour l'année 1886* which I have translated as follows:

“Mail for Rivières du Sud.(French Guinea)

A steamer, subsidised by the colony (Sénégal) makes a monthly voyage, starting on the morning of the 1st and returning on the 26th between Dakar and Sierra Leone, calling at Rufisque, Foundiougne (Saloum), Sainte Marie de Bathurst, Carabane (Casamance), Boulam, Bel-Air (Rio Nunez), Boffa (Rio Pongo) and Benty (Mellacorée). It delivers and collects official despatches, packets, mails and cases of correspondence destined for the ports it calls at.”

The name of the steamer was the “Dakar” but it is not known when a postal agent with a specific date stamp travelled on it.

It can be seen from the two covers illustrated that in both cases the date is earlier than that of the 1891 Decree mentioned by John Sacher.



Figure 1; “A PS R / Senegal” hand-stamp on cover

Moving on to the earlier type handstamp which comprises “A PS R / Senegal”, which we take to mean “Aviso Postal Service des Rivières” the example shown here as figure 1 is dated 30 December 1888. So far, this is the only copy of this handstamp that has been seen on cover but there are two partial cancellations recorded on detached stamps. It came originally from the collection of Robert Stone.



Figure 2; example of “Aviso Postal” with earlier date of 14 May 1889

The date quoted by Robert Stone coincides with the start of this coastal service so we can at least be certain that the handstamps started to be used between 1886 and the end of 1888. Alain Millet confirmed to me that there are 5 covers known with the Aviso Postal handstamp.

This brings forward the earliest date for the use of these stamps and, so far, leans more towards the hypothesis of Robert Stone, and the information quoted by John Sacher may need to be revised accordingly.

Both of these postcards were dated from Rio Nunez.

Alain Millet has also drawn my attention to a third type of cachet stating simply the name of the ship “Petite Marianne” which has only been recorded on detached stamps of the Type Groupe issue.

It is not known how long this postal service lasted.

The letter that John Sacher reproduced is addressed to Mr Robert Ellenburger and it may be of interest to give some information about him. He was Swiss and lived for some years in the Rivières du Sud area (French Guinea) finally returning to Switzerland in 1895. He became a philatelist after his return and it was he who was the first to make public the existence of these handstamps to *L’Echo de la timbrologie* (a stamp magazine) who published it in 1928. They were then included in the *Catalogue des estampilles* the following year. Ellenburger had used this coastal service himself and was able to make some comments on it. Unfortunately he had the annoying habit of putting his own name stamp on material in his collection as can be seen with the “Aviso Postal” card, and it is also on the back of the A PS R /Senegal card.

Hopefully, with the passage of time, new information may come to light but in the meantime we should be grateful to Alain Millet for sharing this information with us.

References

1. Mayne J., “Benin– Lagos Vapeur Service”, *Cameo*, Volume 9 p 58, WASC, June 2005
2. Mayne J., “Another Vapeur—le *Faadji*”, *Cameo*, Volume 9 p67, WASC, October 2005
3. Sacher J., “French 19th C. Coastal Shipping Service”, *Cameo*, Volume 9 p90, WASC, October 2005

Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 1/- on 25 Franc Stamp

Marty Bratzel, Brian Lythgoe, Nick Carter, and Bob Maddocks

Introduction

On October 1, 1961, Cameroun introduced 12 then-current Cameroun postage stamps revalued with sterling currency, for use in West Cameroun. These overprinted stamps remained in use until the currency conversion was complete, as stamps in CFA francs were not introduced until May 1962. This article, the second in a series, examines in detail the overprint characteristics of the 1/- on 25-franc Ahidjo stamp. The first article examined the 1½d on 5-franc and the 3d on 15-franc F.I.D.E.S. stamps. (Ref. 1)

The 25-franc Ahidjo stamp was originally issued January 1, 1960 in sheets of 25 stamps, arranged 5 x 5. Distinct colour shades exist – Ahidjo’s jacket ranges from pale yellow to grey. Prior studies (Ref. 2 and 3) of the overprinted stamp reported the following:

- On the overprint proof, the words REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE read up with 13 mm spacing between the words but, on the issued stamp, FEDERALE reads down with 15 mm spacing.
- At position 8, all three arms of the last E in REPUBLIQUE are short.
- The overprint is found on stamps of various colour shades.

In the present study, we examined 325+ copies of the issued stamp, including multiples of up to six stamps. Many of these stamps were purchased (by NC) from street vendors in Lagos in 1961. Some stamps had margin selvedge, which assisted with the examination and plating. In addition, one of us (BL) has a proof of the full overprint impression (all 25 positions). A second proof sheet was cut into six pieces, five of which are to hand:

- Positions 1-3, 6-8, 11-13 (BL).
- Positions 14-15, 19-20, 24-25 and Positions 5, 10 and the right half of 4 and 9 (RJM).
- Positions 16, 21 and the left half of 17 and 22 (Peter Hørlyck).
- Positions 18, 23 and the right half of 17 and 22 (Michael Wright).

Together, these pieces show the equivalent of 24 positions. The corresponding impressions on the two proof sheets are identical.

We report the following observations and conclusions for the 1/- stamp. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, we illustrate both the proof and the adopted overprint for 13 of the 25 positions in the sheet. (Ref. 4)

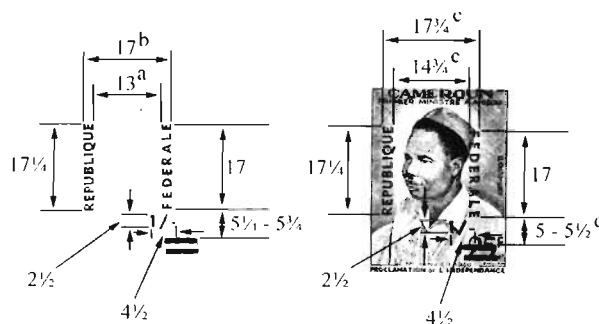


Figure 1. Arrangement for proof and adopted overprints.

- a. Some positions are slightly greater, approaching 13¼ mm; position 5 – 13½ mm.
- b. Some positions are slightly greater, approaching 17¼ mm; position 5 – 17½ mm.
- c. Fractionally greater for position 19.
- d. See table for distance by position.

The Overprint Setting

The proof overprint consists of the words REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE set vertically reading up, a new value, and two bars positioned to obliterate the old value. The pertinent measurements are shown in Figure 1. (All measurements were made with a millimeter scale under a magnifying glass. Over-inking tends to slightly alter an apparent length or distance) The letters and numbers used to prepare the plates are uniform; the only difference, as noted above, is the short E at position 8. Also, at position 5, REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE are further apart.

The arrangement was repeated 25 times to comprise a full plate for use on the printing press. Assembly of the constituent components into the full pane of the proof impression is generally well done. Unlike the 1½d and 3d values, the text is well aligned up each column of five stamps. The spacing between the overprint on adjacent stamps is reasonably uniform, with no significant differences that would assist in plating the stamps.

Each of the 25 positions in the proof sheet has a unique characteristic – the two bars that obliterate the old value are slightly different at each position. For example, one bar may extend slightly further to the left or right than the other, and some of the bars exhibit consistent defects. In addition, the distance between the top bar and the F in FEDERALE ranges from 5¼ to 5¾ mm.

The overprint applied to the issued stamp differs from the proof. The pertinent measurements of the adopted format are shown in Figure 1. The major differences are that, on the issued stamp, FEDERALE reads down and is further from REPUBLIQUE. One can speculate as to why the change was made. On the proof, the lines of text were too close together to properly frame Ahidjo’s head – regardless of application, the text would fall on his image. Also, in our opinion, the overprinted stamp appears more aesthetically pleasing with FEDERALE reading down.

It would be interesting to know if stamps exist with the proof overprint – now there’s a WAWA challenge in the offering!

Flipping the line of text also changed the distance between the top of the bar and the E in FEDERALE. On the issued stamp, the distance ranges from 5 to 5½ mm, a difference which facilitates plating.

Distance between Bar to FEDERALE by Position in Sheet

Position	On Proof Impressions						On Issued Stamps				
1-5	5½	5¾	5¾	5¾	5¾		5½	5½	5	5½	5
6-10	5¾	5¾	5½	5½	5½		5½	5	5½	5½	5¼
11-15	5¼	5¾	5½	5¾	5¾		5	5¼	5½	5½	5¼
16-20	5½	5¾	5½	5½	5¾		5½	5	5½	5½	5¼
21-25	5½	5¾	5¼	5½	5¾		5½	5	5½	5½	5½

Plating the Stamps

The overprint is generally well positioned on the stamps; no significant misplacements have been reported or observed. Since the red overprint was applied to an engraved stamp, the ink did not transfer or adhere uniformly upon application. This is particularly noticeable with under-inked examples. Impressions are generally neat, with only the occasional smudging or letter filled in. In some cases, the ink appears to be more viscous.

Using available multiples, we plated the issued stamp and then compared the resulting reconstructed sheet with the proof. We conclude that the only change made was to flip FEDERALE and increase the distance from REPUBLIQUE and, in the process, also slightly change the distance of the E in FEDERALE from the bar. Significantly, the unique characteristics of the bars are unchanged at each corresponding position between the proof and the issued stamp.

Among the distinct characteristics of the bars, the following are relatively easy to see.

Position 3	Bottom bar – top left edge uneven
Position 4	Bottom bar – top left corner dented
Position 6	Bottom bar – slight hook at bottom right
Position 7	Top bar – top left edge indented
Position 9	Top bar – constricted at middle, slight hook at bottom right
Position 11	Top bar – top edge scalloped or wavy
Position 13	Top bar – gently indented along bottom edge
Position 17	Top bar – extends to right, slight hook at bottom right
Position 18	Bottom bar – bottom left corner indented
Position 20	Top bar – indentation and hook at top right
Position 22	Top bar – semi-circular indentation on top edge
Position 24	Top bar – “hole” in bar
Position 25	Bottom bar – partially broken near left end

The above-noted characteristics – short E, spacing, and bars – were confirmed by examining multiple copies of stamps from each position and are thus consistent characteristics of the overprinting plate. Their prominence does, however, vary to some extent, depending on the amount of ink and the extent of adherence to the underlying engraved design. In Figures 2-14, we illustrate selected positions for both the proof and the corresponding issued arrangements.



Figure 2. Position 3.



Figure 3. Position 4.



Figure 4. Position 6, with complete and partial “-” in “1/-”.

There is evidence of plate wear at Position 6. On some copies, the “-” in “1/-” is full and complete, on others, partial and broken and, on one copy, present only as a dot. There is also evidence of possible plate wear at position 3. On the proofs, the top bar is solid but, on the issued stamp, the top left edge is uneven or ragged. These differences could be the result of under-inking, but we think not.



Figure 5. Position 8. Short E.



Figure 6. Position 9.



Figure 7. Position 11.



Figure 8. Position 13.



Figure 9. Position 17.



Figure 10. Position 18.



Figure 11. Position 20.



Figure 12. Position 22. The proof sheet was torn through the bars and then glued a bit askew. As confirmed by Michael Wright's impression, the bars are not deformed.



Figure 13. Position 24.



Figure 14. Position 25. The top bar is under-inked on the proof.

On some copies, the letters in REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE exhibit apparent defects. These are artefacts, related to the amount of ink on the plate and its adherence to the underlying stamp.

Another difference is the relative location of the letters in REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE for a given position. Generally, the words are fully aligned both top and bottom but, in some cases, FEDERALE is shifted downward slightly, so as to be misaligned with REPUBLIQUE and closer to the “1” of “1/–” and the bars. Because the overprint is vertical, the differences may be difficult to detect with the naked eye, but are easier to discern when superimposing photocopies or scans of two stamps atop a light box. The overprints on stamps from different positions in the sheet will not align perfectly.

Taking all the positional characteristics into consideration, it is possible, with patience, to plate individual stamps to each of the 25 positions in the full sheet, although some positions are easier to plate than others. Significantly, it is also possible to plate all of the available copies of the 1/– stamp to one of the 25 positions. In addition, the observed postmark dates indicate that the stamps were available for use October 1, 1961 and continued in use through the end of their validity in April-May 1962; the latest date is 31 May. This leads us to conclude that all of the stamps were prepared from a single plate and a single press run. Pull details on the back of the proof impression indicate that the press run was 1,000 sheets, for a total of 25,000 stamps.

Information about the plating of other stamps in the set will be reported in due course. To that end, Rob May has illustrated a full sheet of the large-numeral 2/6 on 30-franc stamp (Ref. 5) and a block of ten of the wide-setting ½d on 1-franc stamp. (Ref. 6) The authors request that readers search their collections for multiple copies of other values, to assist in the plating study. Thanks are extended to Michael Wright and Peter Hørlyck for sharing their pieces of the second proof sheet.

References

1. Bratzel, Marty, Brian Lythgoe, Rob May and Nick Carter. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 1½d on 5 Franc and the 3d on 15 Franc Values. *Cameo*, Vol. 8, No. 3, June 2004, pages 144-150.
2. May, Rob, Michael Wright, John Smith, and Brian Lythgoe. Cameroun 1961 Sterling Surcharges. *Cameo*, Vol. 6, No. 5, January 2000, pages 248-252.
3. May, Rob. 1961 Sterling Issues Reprinted. *Cameo*, Vol. 6, No. 7, July 2000, pages 330-331.
4. The full proof impression for the 1/– stamp can be viewed with the text horizontal and the new value and the bars vertical. This would lead to assignment of different position numbers for the overprint plate, compared to the position of a stamp in the sheet. For example, overprint position 1 is on stamp position 21, overprint position 5 on stamp position 1, overprint position 25 on stamp position 5, etc. To avoid confusion and since most people are interested in stamps, for purposes of this discussion, we have used the position of a stamp in a sheet.
5. May, Rob. Cameroun 1961 2/6 Large Format Surcharge. *Cameo*, Vol. 8, No. 5, January 2005, pages 297-298.
6. May, Rob. Cameroun 1961 Sterling Surcharges – ½d Value. *Cameo*, Vol. 9, No. 2, October 2005, pages 111-112.

Backdated Buea Cameroon First Day Cover

Michael Wright and Marty Bratzel

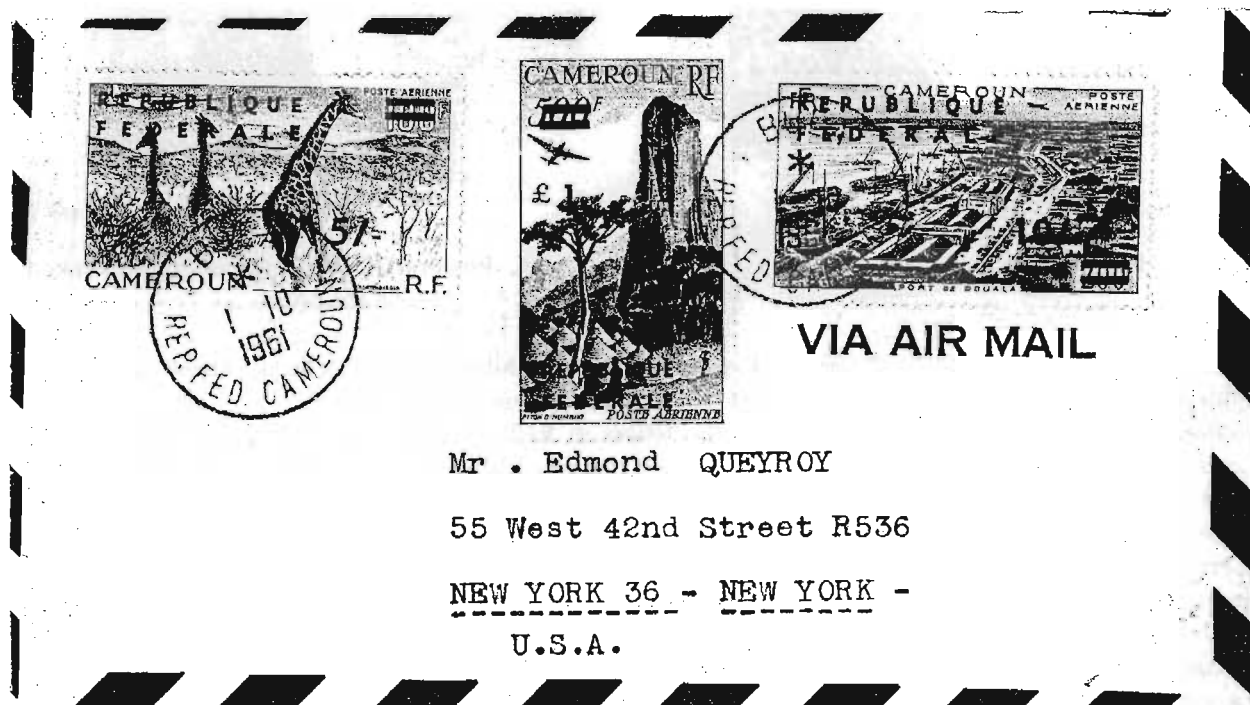


Figure 1. Backdated First Day Cover



Figure 2. Legitimate First Day Cover



Figure 3. Postmark Comparison

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 does not claim to be a first day cover, but the date – 1 October 1961 – is the first day of issue of stamps overprinted for the former Cameroons under U.K. Administration, from that day becoming part of the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

The odd thing, however, is that the 5/- and 10/- stamps are Type 2, with larger figures of value and the hyphen aligned with the obliterating bars. It is generally agreed that these were not issued until later and are rarely seen commercially used.

The cover illustrated in Figure 2, again postmarked Buea 1 October 1961, is one of three which, together, have the whole set of revalued stamps. Here, however, the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps have the small Type 1 figures of value.

The same datestamp was used to cancel the stamps on both covers. However, there are a number of discrepancies, specifically, there is no hyphen between the day and month slugs in the postmark applied to the former cover, but there is in the latter. See enlarged postmarks in Figure 3. Similarly, the position of the month slug relative to the year slug is different.

The Carter accumulation (see note) has stamps postmarked Buea for 12 other dates throughout October 1961. For each, the postmark matches the strike shown in Figure 2, that is, with a hyphen and the same relative position of the month and year slugs. There is no evidence that these slugs were moved or slipped during the entire month.

There is no question that the datestamp is genuine, but we conclude that the strike applied to the cover in Figure 1 is backdated. The addressee, Edmund Queroy, was a well known New York stamp dealer who is associated with a number of other philatelic covers from Cameroun from the 1940s through the early 1960s. He no doubt wanted the stamps cancelled to order, so sent the covers with stamps affixed to the postmaster in Buea with a request that the postmark be backdated to 1 October 1961. The cover was probably returned enclosed in another envelope. Given the amount of postage, the cover should have been registered or received other service that would have resulted in markings.

This cover points out the dangers and challenges posed by reliance on the date of a postmark and the misleading conclusions that one can draw.

My thanks to Mrs. Priddy and Messrs May and Round who have also examined the covers and concur with the conclusions.

Note: The Carter accumulation is a large quantity of used Cameroon stamps that WASC member Nick Carter acquired “on the streets” in Lagos in 1960-62. The stamps are being used for a number of studies which will be published periodically in the philatelic literature.

Bury Family Correspondence—Colonial Medics

Rob May

A few months ago my father found an odd accumulation of covers, letters and airletters which included some West Africa content; dated between 1906 and 1972. They turned out to be the bare bones of a story of a family of doctors and other medical personnel in the Colonial Service. As readers will see, these particular items seem to be only a part of the correspondence, so I would be interested to hear from anyone who has material relating to the same family. I hope by recording the West Africa part of the story of my hoard I will be able to add colour to material held by other members. Covers are illustrated only where they have philatelic interest. The interesting New Zealand and MEF covers and letters are not detailed here.

The first letter is dated 30 December 1906 from Narromine, New South Wales, from a Dr J M Alcorn to Dr R Bury, congratulating him on his marriage. Dr Bury seems to have told him he was considering the Colonial Service in Fiji as the sender writes:

“I mentioned something to Dr Tomlinson on about Fiji and he told me he only met one man from there, he was away up country and got appendicitis, and another doctor took three days to get to him and then had great trouble to get him down to the coast to be operated on. You cannot take women folk over there as they seem very liable to suffer from ovarian trouble etc, besides which the pay is no great shakes, so I would think twice if I were you before I went there. It might be all right on your own but it would be too rough to take Mrs B. with you—no society and no fun.” How times have changed!

It becomes evident that Dr Raymond Bury went to East Africa instead, bringing up a son, Ned, and daughter Joan. Ned was born in 1909 as the next letter is from Blantyre, Nyasaland dated 28 June 1930, to Ned Bury at Trinity College Cambridge referring to a present for his 21st birthday. That letter also tells Ned that his father is taking a posting to Tanganyika. A much later airletter from “L” at Fort Johnson, Nyasaland to Mrs R Bury dated 14 December 1949 includes *“It only seems the other day that Raymond brought him (Ned) quite a lad, into my laboratory at the Fort”*.

In September 1934 two letters show Ned and sister Joan living in Earls Court, and mother in Devon. There is no further reference to Raymond Bury in the correspondence—he seems to have died at about that time, and his widow lived from then on at Oulton Broad, Norfolk.

The West Africa connection starts with Ned writing to his mother from Bida, Nigeria on 14 July 1936, then five more times up to 10 May 1937. Some contain letters. A letter of 13 December 1936 was written at Enagi, 40 miles from Bida, and talks about doing a sleeping sickness survey for the High Commissioner, and also the problems he has with his horse suffering the effect of trypanosomes. Extraordinarily, the letter also refers to sister Joan considering working as an au pair in Germany. He says he is sending the letter by messenger that afternoon and the cover is backstamped Minna 15 December then Kano 17 December

The next letter dated 28 December 1936 starts *“No airmail from you since I wrote last as the plane came down somewhere up north and the mail has been delayed”*. His comments on the harmattan winds make it clear this was his first year in West Africa and that he was not finding the work occupied much of his time. He had relocated to Karu, near Keffi, via Gudi, by the time he wrote the last letter in May 1937 and found he had been roped into organising the Coronation Show at Keffi. By now he was grumbling about his work and his terms, mentioning that he had signed up for 25 years in the Colonial service but that the conditions were better in the Fighting Services and so he had applied to get a commission.

The next two covers are illustrated as figures 1 and 2. it is a great pity the contents are missing but the sender is Capt. E. Bury, by now a military doctor. The first cover is unpaid, cancelled “Received from H. M. Ships” without a datestamp, but dated 1 August 1940 on arrival at Oulton Broad. The timing is right for the journey commencing 1st June 1940 by the West African Brigade from Nigeria to East Africa for the campaign against the Italians, which is reinforced by the second cover from Malindi, Kenya, dated 15 August 1940. The censorship marking on the back of the first cover is similar to Unit censor 12 type A1301 in Martin & Walton (Ref 1) but with a different shape of the figure 2. The censorship on the second cover is entirely East African in style.

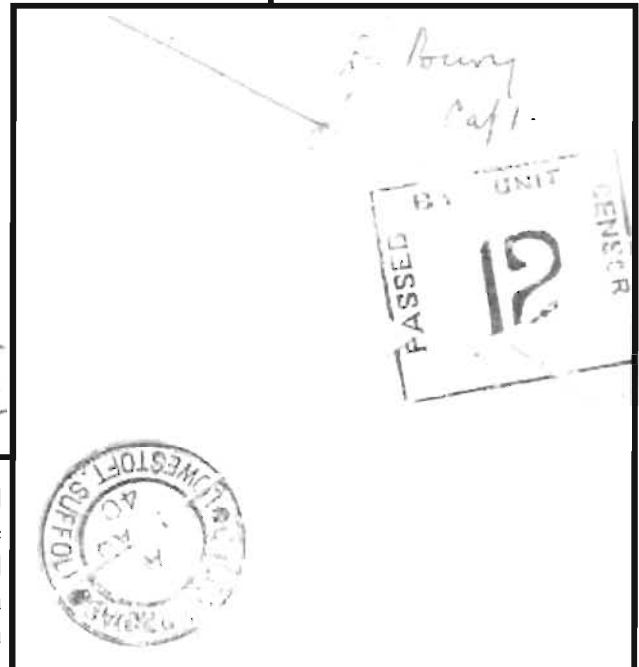
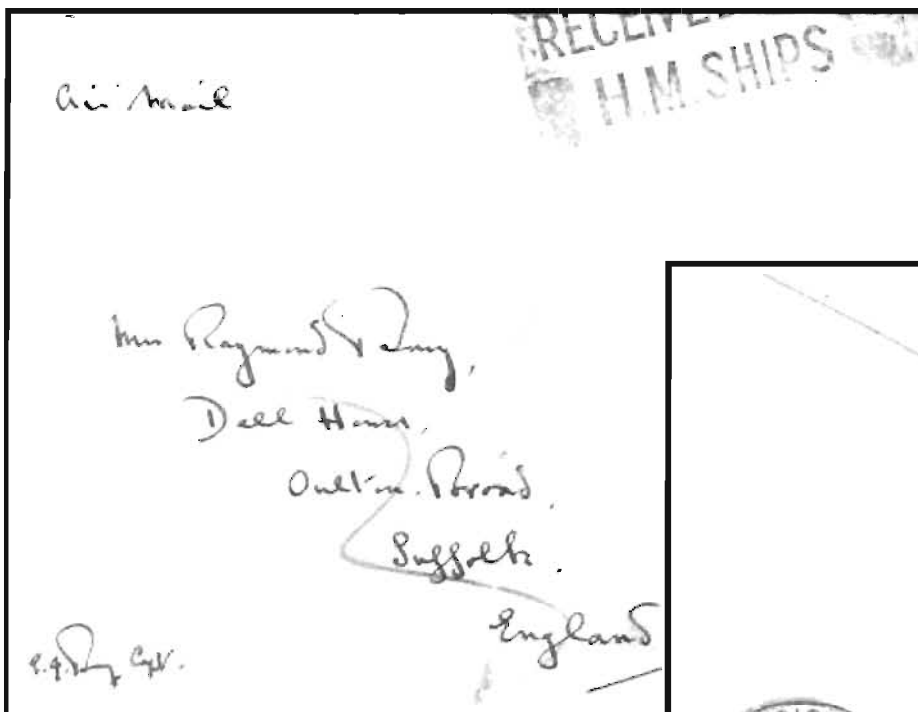


Figure 1; On active service free cover handstamped "Received from H.M.Ships" with Nigerian type "Passed by unit censor 12" in violet, and backstamped on arrival at Oulton Broad on 1 August 1940. From the context of figure 2 we know Capt Bury was en route to East Africa.



Ascension

- SG 36 1937 2d Coronation. VFU examples in reddish orange and pale orange on thinner paper £10
- SG 38b 1944 printing of 1/2d. VFUM positional block of 9, R3/4 'torpedo' flaw, 4/6 scratch in left value £38
- SG 38b 1944 printing of 1/2d. VFUM positional block of 6, R3/2 flaw on collar, 4/2 scratch in left '1/2'. Long guidemark below R4/3 £15

Gambia

- SG 150-61 1938-46 set of 16. VFU, all bar original 1 1/2d on 2d on neat separate pieces with 1947 Bathurst CDSs £17

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King George VI

Gold Coast

- CW 28a 1952 2d deep brown. VFUM imprint block of 6 £28
- SG D2 1923-51 1d Postage Due. VFUM sheet of 60, twice sheet-numbered £35
- SG D2, 5-8 1951-52 chalky Postage Due set of 4, plus ordinary 1d. VFUM corner blocks of 32, 3d with R9/1 serif variety, 1/- with different alignments £175
- SG D5-8c 1951-52 chalky Postage Due set of 4. VFUM sheets of 60, the 4d and 1/- sheets twice numbered. 3d with R9/1, 1/- column 5 varieties. Remarkable item £400
- Nigeria**
- SG 58ab 1947 2/6d black and blackish ultra. VFM £30





Figure 2: Cover from Capt E Bury on active service at Malindi, Kenya sent on 15 August 1940 by air mail to the UK, with East African type censor no 196 and OHMS Military Frank handstamps in violet. The postage stamps paid the air mail supplement

Ned Bury's sister Joan was also in East Africa during the war. An unusual air letter signed Joan dated 28th April 1943 and addressed from "Major A. C. E. Cole, No 3 General Hospital, c/o APS, E. African Command" is censored and countersigned by Major Cole, with East African censor number 262, addressed to her mother at Oulton Broad. Major Cole possibly became her husband, as later letters refer to her husband as Claude and the 1949 letter from "L" already mentioned includes the comment "Your son-in-law too seems to be going ahead in T.T. (Tanganyika) Ag D.D.M.S. or D.D.M.S. isn't he?"

The text of Joan's airletter includes a good yarn:

"I had rather a fright the other night. I told you I had moved into what was Baden-Powell's bedroom and the room in fact in which he died. Well, I woke up the other night with a start and saw quite distinctly a figure exactly like a museum's mummy only in white, sitting on the edge of a chair. I sat up and still saw it quite plainly and then it vanished. There were no clothes thrown over the chair so it was definitely not a trick of the eyes in that way. I was saying afterwards that I could not understand why he should return like that instead of in ordinary civilian clothes or boy scout get up, and they say that he was embalmed and is to be taken home to Westminster Abbey after the war, which is against his wishes as he was very fond of Nyeri and wanted to be left peacefully in the graveyard here. There was no nasty atmosphere in the room where I saw this but it was quite plain to me and I do not fancy waking up and seeing it again so I have moved my room. I have since heard that a Nursing Sister who was staying here and who was in that room asked to be moved for the same reason"

Ned Bury returned to Nigeria in 1946. An air letter dated 13 September 1946 from "Health Office, Kano", talks about getting his saddle back from store in Kaduna and talks about catching up with some of his survey team from 1938. So it seems he had only recently returned and it would be interesting to know whether he went to Burma with the West African Brigade. The timing of his return would be right, but there are no letters from him in this hoard during the intervening period.

He seems to have been in Gambia as well. There is an attractive miniature envelope from France, containing another the change of address of another doctor (Pierre Dubroca), addressed to "Docteur Bury, Bathurst, Gambie Anglaise", dated 3 January 1952. However, by August 1953 he was back in "Medical Headquarters, Ibadan, Nigeria when he received two love letters from his wife, Prue, sailing to England on

“MV Accra”, six months pregnant with their first child. She recalls them being together in Ondo, Nigeria in 1949. The child was a boy, christened Nigel. This seems to have given Ned the chance of leave back in the UK as the next air letter from him to his mother is dated Freetown 28 November 1955, written on board “MV Aureol” sailing southbound.

After another long gap there is a cover in Ned’s handwriting from Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia dated 16 April 1962. By this time he was 53 years old. The final letter is again from Bulawayo, written by Prue, to her son Nigel at Nightingales, Hever, Kent (a school?) on 26 February 1972, commiserating with him on not getting into Cambridge. Prue is plainly on her own as she talks about the difficulty of being involved in dinner parties as a singleton. Ned had died sometime between these dates, having moved to Britain’s last colony in Africa—in colonial service to the bitter end.

Reference

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p71, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999



Togo WW1 Censored mail

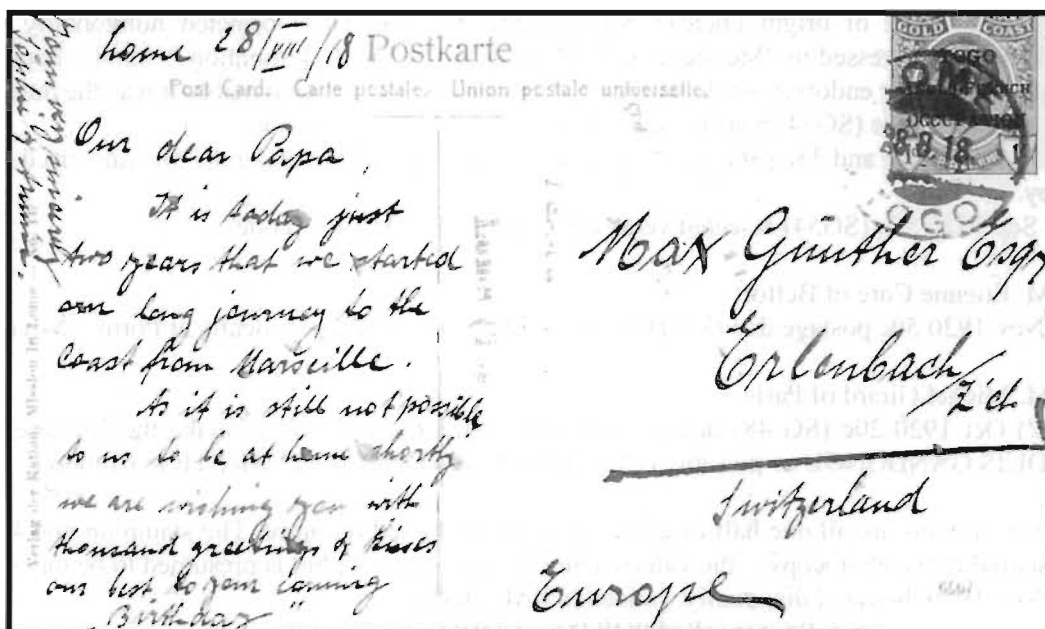
John Mayne

If I recall correctly at the 2003 weekend, or maybe 2001, there was a brief discussion about the censoring of postcards from West Africa in World War I. I mentioned that the cards in my collection which were censored had all been written in a language other than English. The consensus was that the censor cachet was added to show that such messages had been read.

I am always searching for postcards of the German period and was attracted by a view of Noëpe railway station at auction in Germany. When it reached me I was delighted to find two un-described bonuses. Firstly the view is in colour and secondly it was censored by M&W type 200.01 on 28 August 1918, when posted at Lome. Sent to Switzerland it has the following message in English on the reverse:

Our dear Papa, it is (taking?) just two years that we started our long journey to the coast from Marseille. As it is still not possible to be home shortly we are wishing you a thousand greetings of kisses our best to your coming birthday. Yours very sincerely Sophie & Annie

I just wonder if the writer deliberately wrote in English to avoid censorship. To date, it is the only card I have seen written in English and censored.



Reference

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, p107, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999

Dahomey Bisects—the final word

Bill Mitchell

Three articles on Dahomey stamps bisected during a shortage of the 25c value in 1920 and 1921 have previously been published in *Cameo* (Refs 1, 2, 3). Since the last of these appeared, appeals for more examples have appeared in the *Journal of the France & Colonies P.S. of Great Britain*, the *France & Colonies Philatelist (U.S.A.)* and the *COL.FRA Bulletin (France)*, as a result of which I can now add a supplementary list which more than doubles the number hitherto recorded by WASC. Before detailing them I should remind readers that the shortage was no doubt caused by the increase, on 1 June 1920, of the “French Group” letter rate to 25c which was already the basic foreign rate; the bisecting of the 50c ONLY was specifically authorised and notified to the U.P.U. (the bisecting had to be either vertical or diagonal to leave the original figure of value intact on both halves).

I am grateful to the collectors named below for their assistance with this exercise. The numbering continues from where I left off in my previous article (Ref 3); nos. 1 to 12 are listed in *Cameo* 56 and nos. 13 to 22 will be found in issue 58. Except where otherwise stated, all are on cover.

John Barefoot Auction 36, 1 December 2002 (kindly sent to me by David Jennings—Bramly).

23. Cancel indistinct in catalogue illustration but stated to be from OUIDAH, 50c (SG 54) bisected diagonally and sent to Bohicon.

Sent by Paul Barsdell of Manuka, Australia.

24. 5 Nov 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected diagonally, tied on piece, used COTONOU.
25. 18 Nov 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected diagonally, used GRAND—POPO to Ouidah.
26. 30 Sep 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected vertically, used PORTO—NOVO to Ouidah.
27. 24 Dec 1920 30c (SG 50) bisected diagonally with 1c, 4c and 5c (SG 42, 44, 45) to make the 25c rate, used BOHICON to Dijon.
28. 24 Dec 1920 40c (SG 52) bisected diagonally with 1c and 4c (SG 42, 44) to make the 25c rate, used BOHICON to Dijon.
29. 24 Dec 1920 5c (SG 45) and 45c (SG 53) both bisected diagonally to make the 25c rate, used BOHICON to Dijon.
30. 24 Dec 1920 20c (SG48) bisected vertically with 15c (SG 47) to make the 25c rate, used BOHICON to Dijon.
31. Date and place of origin unclear; 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally on printed commercial cover addressed to “Messieurs C.F. FABRE & Cie” with destination “Grand—Popo” added in manuscript. An unclear endorsement looks like “23 Novembre 1920”; presumably it was the date of receipt.
32. 10 Nov 1920 50c (SG54) bisected diagonally, used SAVE to Cotonou.
33. 19 Oct 1921 15c and 35c (SG 47, 51) both bisected diagonally to make the 50c rate, used BOHICON to Abomey.
34. 17 Sep 1920 50c (SG54) bisected vertically, used ATHIEME to Agoué.

Sent by M. Etienne Coré of Belfort.

35. 4 Nov 1920 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally, used locally at Porto—Novo.

Sent by M. Michel Girard of Paris.

36. 4(?) Oct 1920 20c (SG 48) bisected vertically with 15c (SG 47) to make the 25c rate on printed firm’s (LOUIS GANDONOU or possibly GANDONON) envelope, used SAKETE to Cotonou.

The next seven items are all one half of a 50c stamp (SG 54) tied on piece. The stamp on nos 42 and 43 is partly obscured in the photocopy - the value cannot be seen on no 42 but is presumed to be the 50c.

37. 20 Nov 1920 bisected diagonally, cancelled PARAKOU.
38. ? ? ? bisected diagonally, cancelled PORTO—NOVO.
39. 26(?) Oct 1920 bisected diagonally, cancelled DASSA—ZOUME.
40. 14 Jan 1921 bisected vertically, cancelled DASSA—ZOUME.

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41. 3 Dec 1920 bisected diagonally, cancelled BOHICON.
42. ? Nov 1920 bisected diagonally, cancelled BOHICON.
43. 1 Oct 1920 bisected vertically, place unclear.

Ebay auction, 26 April 2005 (copy kindly supplied by Mick Bister).

44. 11 Oct 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected diagonally used PORTO—NOVO to Bohicon.

Sent by M. Alain Hurpet of Maily le Camp,

45. 6 Sep 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected vertically, used BOHICON to Ouidah.
46. 26 Oct 1920 50c (SG 54) bisected vertically, used PORTO—NOVO to London.
47. 4 Nov 1920 50c (SG 54), used locally at PORTO—NOVO. Bisected horizontally contrary to the regulations. The figures of value are bisected and in a black and white photocopy the stamp cannot be confirmed as a 50c (it could be a 30c), but this is presumed to be the case
48. 4 Nov 1920 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally, used locally at PORTO—NOVO.
49. 9 Oct 1920 40c (SG 52) bisected vertically with 5c (SG 45) to make the 25c rate, used PORTO—NOVO to Lagos where marked INSUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED (dates 16, 21 and 27 October). Returned to sender?
50. 10 Nov 1920 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally, used SAVALOU to Porto—Novo (receiver 12 November).
51. ? Nov 1920 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally, used OUIDAH to Porto—Novo (receiver of 10 November).
52. 6 Nov 1920 50c postage due (SG D64) bisected horizontally, used OUIDAH to Cotonou (receiver of 6 November); re—directed and returned to sender.
53. 20 Oct 1920 50c (SG 54)(presumably) bisected horizontally contrary to instructions with 35c (SG 51, registration fee), used SAVE on printed SENAFRICA envelope to Porto—Novo.
54. 15 Nov 1920 40c (SG 52) bisected vertically with 1c and 4c (SG 42, 44) to make the 25c rate, used BOHICON to Cotonou.
55. 15 Nov 1920 40c (SG 52), two copies bisected diagonally and vertically, used BOHICON to Cotonou.

Some analysis can be made and some conclusions drawn from this sample of 56 bisects (no doubt many others exist and there were once many more), 30 of which - about 55 per cent - show correct usage. They come from 12 towns in all; additionally one was handled on a train and the origins of several more cannot be determined.

They can be broken down thus:

	Total	Correct usage
Bohicon	16	3
Porto—Novo	13	9
Cotonou	6	5
Grand—Popo	4	4
Ouidah	3	1
Abomey	2	2
Dassa—Zoumé	2	2
Savé	2	1
Athième	1	1
*Cotonou á Ouidah convoyeur	1	1
Parakou	1	1
Sakété	1	-
Savalou	1	-
Origin unclear	3	-
Totals	56	30

* This cancel also exists in the reverse direction (Ref 4), so this may well be another example from Cotonou rather than Ouidah.

According to the COL.FRA account quoted in my previous article (Ref 5), the supply of 25c stamps, needed to meet both the basic “French group” and foreign letter rates, became exhausted in “five or six post offices” between the end of September and mid—November 1920. We now have a record of correct usage at ten different offices between 6 September (no 45) and 14 January 1921 (no 40). In my previous article I implied that a cover with an earlier January date, the 6th, no 19, which I haven’t seen, was probably contrived; the existence of another, eight days later (unfortunately on piece) now suggests that both these may be given the benefit of the doubt.

The most immediately striking feature of the list is the very small number (six) coming from Cotonou, the “chief centre of the European population of Dahomey” handling “Three per cent of the total trade of French West Africa” (Ref 6). Although its population was relatively small compared with those of Porto—Novo, the capital, and Ouidah (Ref 7), its commercial importance can be seen from the fact that a high proportion of used Dahomey stamps dating from this period bear Cotonou cancels, and one would expect this to be reflected in a correspondingly high proportion of the bisects. If the use of the 50c postage due stamp recorded from there on 3 September (no 1) is an example of the local postmaster using his initiative, as I suggested in my previous article, we have evidence that the shortage was being felt there at an early stage; but why so few later on? Could it be that supplies of the 25c stamp were diverted there because the demand was likely to be the greatest?

Quite a high proportion of the cases now recorded do not correspond with the authorised usage. The fact that a franking does not comply with the rules does not necessarily mean that the cover is contrived; it may be that the instructions were misunderstood or even, just possibly, that no 50c stamps were to hand. Nevertheless, a fancy selection and/or arrangement of stamps must be suspect; some examples of dubious franking are now to be discussed.

Later use of postage due stamps is interesting. It is contrary to instructions, of course, yet three of them at least, nos. 31, 50 and 51, are not obviously contrived. Another, no 52, is more doubtful, having been returned to sender because the addressee was unknown. Three, nos. 17, 35 and 48, are quite blatant, all used (rather surprisingly) at Porto—Novo, the capital, on 4 November and addressed in the same hand to different local residents (presumably there is or was at least one other similar cover). No 47, with the postage stamp incorrectly bisected horizontally at Porto—Novo on this same 4 November, is from the same sender to yet another local resident.

These irregularities are put in the shade by those at Bohicon. 16 examples in all are recorded from there, more than from any other town (and, as I mentioned in my previous article, another ten have not been recorded), yet only three of these show correct usage. Of the other 13, six were sent to different persons in Dijon, perhaps members of a local philatelic society. The owner of two of these (plus the unlisted ten) stated in his report to COL.FRA that they were sent by pupils and the headmaster of a local school; clearly there was good organisation and a compliant postmaster. It will be noted that two dates, 15 November and 24 December 1920, account for ten examples between them. One (no 55) is so unconvincing as to be rather silly. It is true that 40c was correct for a second—step letter, but even if the letter did weigh over 20 grams, why halve two stamps of the same value which was not in short supply anyway? Both of the two covers dated 19 October 1921, long after the emergency was over, are addressed to Abomey. One, no 13, illustrated by Chris May in *Cameo* 57, is very contrived; the other (no 33) looks convincing, but is hardly likely to be the result of a misunderstanding of the rules.

To conclude this listing of bisects, Paul Barsdell has reported another cover with one half of a 1 franc stamp (SG 88) used to meet the then basic 50c “French Group” rate at Bopa on 8 January 1929. So we now have three copies of this interesting example of unauthorised use, probably to meet a sudden shortage. All are addressed to Grand—Popo; the handwriting and addressee in each case being different. The shortage, if that is what it was, probably lasted for only a few days so covers should be considerably scarcer than those dating from 1920—21.

Lastly, a curiosity and a correction. The 1979 article referred to in connection with cover 56 prints a letter (undated but recent) from the Office of Posts and Telecommunications of Benin in response to an enquiry about these bisects. The writer’s researches led him to attribute them, correctly, to “l’initiative non des usages du service, mais de l’Administration”, but he was incorrect in apparently believing that the shortage of stamps occurred between 1913 and 1917 as a consequence of World War I. He was spot on again, though, when he wrote “..les autorités gouvernementales et administratives du pays ont décidé de faire diviser en deux parties égales, les figurines postales...Chaque moitié ainsi obtenue conserve les mêmes caractéristiques qu’un timbre-poste entire, et à ce titre est vendue a son prix initial...l’Union Postale Universelle avait été informée de cette opération accidentelle”. This corresponds almost word for word with the COL.FRA article quoted on page 238 of *Cameo* 58. The phrase underlined I take to mean that the two half stamps were sold together at the original price. Curiously he also states that bisected stamps were cancelled with a special date-stamp as a means of identification. The recipient of the letter was M. Pluchard, the author of the article: he rightly doubted the given reason for the shortage of stamps and commented that the letter implied that without the special date-stamp examples of the bisects were not “authentic” – yet this date-stamp has never been reported.

Please note the correction – on page 239 of *Cameo* 58, six lines from the end of the article, “25c and 10c rates” should read “25c, 20c and 15c rates”. My apologies for the slip.

References

1. May C.F., “The 1920-1921 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo”, *Cameo*, Volume 7 p115, WASC, January 2002
2. May C.F., “The 1920-1921 Bisects of Dahomey and Togo—part 2”, *Cameo*, Volume 7 p177, WASC, July 2002
3. Mitchell W.G., “More on those Dahomey Bisects”, *Cameo*, Volume 7 p237, WASC, January 2003
4. Waugh W.M., *Railway Mail in the French African and Indian Ocean Colonies*, p17, France & Colonies Philatelic Society Inc., (Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No 7), New York, 1987
5. Crombez R., “Dahomey, Propositions pour l’établissement d’un catalogue d’histoire Postale et Philatelique” COL.FRA Bulletin Hors-serie 14-1 to 14-6, Paris 1997, p92
6. Naval Intelligence Geographical Handbook Series—“French West Africa, Volume 2 The Colonies” HMSO, London 1944, p65
7. Ibid, pp 64, 65 and 67. The population figures are quoted as being 24,095 including 160 Europeans, (Porto Novo), 12,841 (Ouidah) and 8,100 (Cotonou). The latter figure is attributed to 1932; the other two come apparently from a 1937 census, although this is not absolutely clear.

Ed — this series of articles seems now to achieved its original objectives, which were to establish the extent to which these bisects were officially sanctioned and so to establish whether the catalogue editors might reconsider their previous decision not to list such issues on the basis that they were of philatelic origin. Unless anyone feels strongly I suggest that Bill has compiled the “last word” and the series can now be considered to be closed.

'Heavy Gum' on 1937 St Helena & Ascension Printings

Barry Burns

Collectors of the St Helena 1922-37 'Badge' or 'Ship' set will know that the easiest method for identifying the scarcer deep carmine-red shade of the 1½d value (SG 99e, invoiced 11 February 1937) is by the gum, which has a brown streaky appearance. Similar gum can also be found on some other values of this set, and also several values of the 1934 KGV pictorial set of Ascension. This feature was raised in Ralph Stanton's article on the 1937 printing of the 7/6d value of St Helena in *Cameo* 66, p107-108.

I recently acquired a letter of 6 May 1937 to the Postmaster at St Helena from the Empire Stamp Company of Toronto, Canada, which elicited an interesting response concerning the heavy gum on these stamps:

Dear Sir,

We cannot understand why you would send the stamps in your shipment of April 9th, without transparent interleaving. Your failure to do this resulted in the shipment coming in such a stuck-down condition that we had considerable trouble separating the stamps, damaging some as a result, and then there are others that we simple (sic) are unable to use.

As a result of the above, we have to return back to you for replacement, the following stamps:

<i>8 Ascension 1d</i>	<i>865 1d, St. Helena</i>
<i>2 Ascension 2d</i>	<i>350 2d, St. Helena</i>
<i>9 Ascension 3d</i>	<i>10 3d, St. Helena</i>

Kindly ship the replaced stamps forward to us and we sincerely hope in future, that you will use some type of protection to guard against a repetition of this trouble.

Yours very truly,
EMPIRE STAMP COMPANY
(signed) A.H. Jenkins
Manager

To which the Postmaster replied on 7 July 1937:

DAMAGED STAMPS FOR EXCHANGE – EMPIRE STAMP CO.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th. May, last, and to forward herewith stamps to replace those enclosed in your letter, as below:

<i>Ascension: 8 stamps @ 1d.</i>	<i>St. Helena: 865 stamps @ 1d.</i>
<i>2 " @ 2d.</i>	<i>350 " @ 2d.</i>
<i>9 " @ 3d.</i>	<i>10 " @ 3d.</i>

*There has been such a tremendous rush on stamps recently that we ran short of packing material, added to which **the last consignment of stamps received were very heavily gummed**, (my emphasis – Barry) and *this has been referred to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.**

*The first object of a stamp is to be suitable for postal purposes, and the stamps recently received answered that purpose very well, but were **too heavily gummed** to be packed for collecting with any degree of safety.*

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,
Postmaster (unsigned)

Varieties on the QV 1½d Keyplate of St Helena

Ralph Stanton

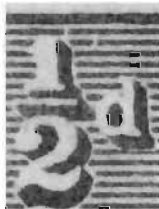
Many collectors of St Helena will be aware of quite a number of varieties found on the Queen Victoria 'Keyplate' set of 1890-97. This issue was printed in two panes of sixty, each pane being 10 rows of 6 stamps. Recently I sent Ralph Stanton a scan of a complete pane of the Three Halfpenny red-brown and green SG 48 (Figure 1, at 60%). Unfortunately all the selvage had been removed so it was not immediately obvious if this was from the left or right pane. On this value, there are several instances of damage to the 'A' of HELENA. Ralph responded with the following detailed observations - Barry Burns.

Thank you for the scan of the pane of the Three Halfpenny QV Keyplate. I expected it to be the right hand pane, since I have several blocks of the left-hand pane (including one of 30 stamps, being positions 2 to 6 down to 25 to 30). But my guess was wrong. You have a complete left pane.

I had expected the "Deformed A's" to be spread over the two panes, but they are all on the left pane. Indeed, I do not have any varieties for the right pane. I will point out the more significant varieties on the left pane, using the following convention: e.g. **L 18 (L 3/6)** indicates L for Left Pane; 18 is Stamp number 18; 3/6 indicates Row 3, Column 6.

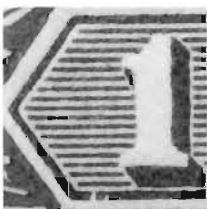


Figure 1



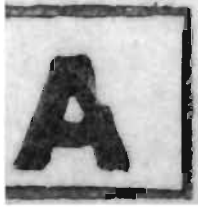
L 6 (L 1/6)

There is a fairly large white spot to the right of the top of the '1' in ½. There is also a much smaller white dot to the right and slightly below this large one.



L 10 (L 2/4)

There is a double cut (small but quite conspicuous) in the lower frame of the green keyplate (just below the foot of the '1' and a little to the left).



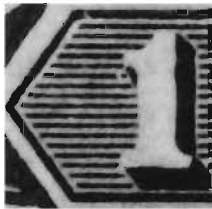
L 16 (L 3/4)

The 'Battered A'. There is a deformation on the right hand side of the 'A' of HELENA as if someone had punched it.



L 18 (L 3/6)

The 'Club-footed A'. This is not as noticeable as the other 'A' deformations.



L 20 (L 4/2)

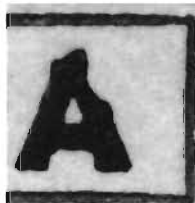
Quite a minor break just before the head of the '1', along with a slight break in the top left corner of the green key.

All of the above appear on the blocks that I have and they are on the picture you sent. Your pane also shows the position of the two other major 'A' flaws:



L 51 (L 9/3)

The 'Sliced A'. This 'A' has the top right corner of the 'A' sliced off. There is also a small crimp in the top left corner of the green key (shown right).



L 34 (L 6/4)

The 'Mangled A'. This is the most noticeable 'A' flaw. Like the 'Battered A' but the punch seems greater and the top of the 'A' is also noticeably slanting.

All of the above are constant varieties, and I have a number of copies of each, used, unused, and with the purple obliterations used on the remainders. I also have a pair, one being the 'Mangled A', used on a cover.



1/4d at St Helena Explained

Barry Burns

Readers may remember that in *Cameo* 66, page 82, I queried a 1/4d manuscript marking applied to two covers sent to St Helena. I have now received three possible explanations for this mark, all of which appear quite plausible. My thanks therefore to Bernard Mabbett, John Sacher and Jamie Gough for what follows.

Bernard Mabbett wrote:

The answer to your query on the Taxed 1/4d covers lies in Cameo 60, Volume 8 Number 1, p46-7. This is part of Robert Johnson's article 'The Post Office of St Helena in 1888', referring to a letter from the GPO, London to The Postmaster at St Helena, which states that an underpaid letter from India to St Helena was 'properly charged in this office as wholly unpaid - the partial prepayment of letters sent in transit through the United Kingdom not being recognised'.

As I was responsible for including the said article in *Cameo*, I can only apologise for not remembering what I had typed! It does suppose that both covers had been underpaid, which appears to be the case as both carry a Tax mark. As the French cover was prepaid 81 centimes, this also indicates a high rate to St Helena for what does not appear to be a large or heavy cover.

John Sacher replied a few days later:

In this period (1 July 1875 to 31 December 1878) none of the West Africa British Colonies was a member of the General Postal Union. Rates to and from third countries that were members through the UK were 7½d per ½ oz. This was made up of 2½d to the UK and 5d onwards (6d less the 1d that would have been UK inland postage).

However one has to remember that while we charged per ½ oz the French charged per 7.5 gm, approximately half the equivalent weight.

What I think happened here was that the sender paid for six times 7.5 gm, at the equivalent of 1/1½d per ½ oz, i.e. 2½d plus 11d which was the 1/- UK to St Helena rate less the inland 1d, but the French Post Office decided that the cover fell within the next weight step and charged an extra 10c (2 x 5c or 2 x 2½d). 10c was equivalent to 5d. The Post Office in St Helena then added 1/- on an underpaid letter, charging 1/5d of which they kept 1d and owed 1/4d to the GPO in London.

The British/Foreign mark was probably applied in London and possibly showed a division of the 10 cents claimed by France, though I am not sure whether this would actually have been paid under GPU regulations.

The Azores cover was during the same period and likely to have been similarly treated, though I cannot find the relevant exchange rate.

I can copy this to Jamie Gough in the USA, who has an expert knowledge of underpaid mail under GPU/UPU regulations.

Sure enough, Jamie Gough replied a week later:

I think I can help a little. The '1/4d' is a postage due marking.

The Cover from Bordeaux

*The 'T' in triangle marking is French and was put on by a French exchange office before being sent onward to the UK. This indicated that the letter was not prepaid according to the required rates of UPU postage **and** the British - St Helena rate of postage per their non - UPU bilateral postal arrangement.*

The GPU/UPU rules were explicit that mail through members, using the benefits of their bilateral treaties with non-members, had to abide by the same prepayment or postage due requirements of the bilateral arrangement. All members of the Union were provided the details of the bilateral arrangements. Many of them contained clauses that mail, not fully prepaid, was presumed to be NOT PAID at all. Unlike GPU/UPU mail, individual letters to/from non-members was tracked as in the pre-GPU period - although the bilateral amounts of postage or postage due are added to the UPU rates as per the UPU rules among members' own mails.

The 1/4d marking makes sense although I do not have a copy of the British - St Helena postal arrangement. I once had a beautiful cover from St Helena to the USA through London that was charged 32c postage due in 1880. The postage breakdown was as follows:

- 1 10c (double deficiency) to the USA for the UPU rate (25 centimes x 2 = 50 centimes or 10 US cents) per UPU regulations that the destination country keeps all postage due collected on UPU member mail.*
- 2 22c (=11d) to UK for the charge on letters from/to St Helena, which transited the UK, to/from non-Empire destinations, per the UPU rules that existing bilateral treaties with non-UPU countries be complied with as in the pre-GPU period. I believe that the 11d represented 10d to the ship for carriage and 1d to St Helena's postal administration.*

Note that the domestic component of 1d in the standard 1/- rate on mail from the UK to St Helena did not apply to transiting mail - hence 11d on transiting mail. This exclusion of the 1d (from the normal UK 1/- rate) would apply to all UPU member mail if the UK gave such a concession to even one other postal authority - as required by UPU rules.

The 50 centimes NOT PAID UPU postage due (in 1 above) equals 5d. When added to the 11d (in 2 above), it totals 16d or 1/4d (or 32 US cents).

France received no settlement on this item unless there was a bilateral agreement to do so that took place after France joined the GPU operationally on 1 January 1876. I believe that the BRITISH/FOREIGN marking indicates a sharing of the 10d transit rate between the British and St Helena PO's.

The Cover from the Azores

This repeats the story above. The 'T' in circle is an Azores exchange office marking and the '25' next to it in this period (until 1 April 1879) represents the equivalence of the value of the (postage paid, not deficiency) stamp to 25 'UPU centimes'.

I hope this helps.

It certainly does, Jamie. I have reproduced this correspondence in full, for the detailed and valuable information which I believe will be useful to all students of postal history - not just for these two covers. Again, many thanks to all three respondents. (See also Trevor Hearl's article below for information on the addressees of the two covers to which this feedback refers.)



Information on St Helena Articles from *Cameo* 66

Trevor Hearl

A few comments, mainly of identification, which may be helpful to your readers regarding three articles on St Helena which were published in the October 2005 issue, *Cameo* 66.

In the article on Specimen Handstamps (p72) you made the very reasonable interpretation of the St Helena Government Secretary's signature as 'Ruth B. Sealey?' (p78). In fact it was Kenneth B. Scott (*at least we got the B correct! - Barry*). The Governor referred to in his letter (p79) was Sir James Harford (1954-58). Scott, (MBE), was Acting Governor from 14 November 1955 until 29 February 1956, during Harford's UK leave.

The envelopes (sorry, covers!), illustrated on p84 in the article posing the question 'Accountancy or Charge Mark?' at St Helena in 1877 and 1878, pose more difficult questions. Who was the 'Monsieur J.P. Majou'(?), addressed at the 'Consulat de France, Ste. Hélène' in November 1877? Reference to the

St Helena Annual Register for 1877 provides a page and a half description of ‘Domaines Français de Ste. Hélène’ by the Conservateur, ‘Monsieur J. Claude Mareschal’, in French (p54-55). In it he refers to ‘Monsieur Gauthier de Rougemont’ as a former ‘Conservateur Français à Ste. Hélène’ (1858-67). He describes himself as ‘Gardien et Conservateur des monumens’, and names the attendants at Longwood Old House and the Tomb as ‘Monsieur Lucien Morilleau’ and ‘Madame Moutardeau’ - she was the St Helenian widow of Corporal Jean Auguste Moutardeau. So it looks as if M. Majou was a visitor, perhaps an inspector from the French Foreign Ministry to report on the state of the buildings. No such name appears in Gilbert Martinet’s *Napoleon’s Last Journey* (1976), in which he deals with the restoration of Longwood from 1858 to the present, however.

The second cover, to the Captain of the Bark *Wanderer* (St Helena 22 December 1878) - it looks like Capt Andrew Heyer (?) - raises the question whether this was the vessel and voyage written about by C. & S. Lambert in *The Voyage of the Wanderer* (Macmillan, 1883), in which six members of the Lambert family, their governess, maids and servants went, with a crew of 63, on a voyage round the world lasting nearly two years. Unfortunately I do not have a copy to confirm this, nor does the *Annual Register* for that year include Shipping Intelligence so one cannot check when their vessel called - or if it called - at St Helena. (The *Annual Registers* seem to have stopped listing Shipping from the 1860s - the latest I have is for 1861).

Bob Richardson’s last brief, illustrated article on the ‘Conservateur Cachet’ (p96) raises a similar question to the Longwood cover above. What title did the Conservateur give himself on the handstamp? As we have to find a 7 - letter word to follow ‘du’ and precede ‘de’, with the third letter probably being ‘M’, it could be ‘Domaine’ - assuming that Bob read the letter ‘S’ after the ‘M’ wrongly. The French Honorary Consuls usually refer to the Domaines Français de Ste. Hélène’ in the plural, to indicate not only Longwood, but the Tomb, and nowadays, The Briars. So why did they not include ‘Domaines Français de Ste. Hélène’ in their handstamp, as there seems to have been room round the circle? Unfortunately again there is no published Shipping Intelligence to check when the Japanese steamship *Jaisei Maru* called at Jamestown.

A circular handstamp from the French Honorary Consul at Longwood is not unknown, however. I have one on the copy of an official letter written by the present Honorary French Consul, M. Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, in 1996. The wording is not crystal clear but looks like ‘Agence Consulaire de France / A Ste. Hélène’. This is illustrated as Figure 1, and I also show the letter-heads from Longwood (Figure 2) showing how they describe themselves in 1996 and 2004.



Figure 1

I tried a few years ago to list the ‘Conservateurs’ from 1858 to the present, but I found it difficult to give precise dates to the various incumbents. Martineau’s book, quoted above, is quite vague about them and in most histories of the Island they seem to get short shrift! It is an example of how vague are these factual details that when Geoffrey Guy (Governor 1976-80) wrote his obituary of Gilbert Martineau, whom he knew as well as anyone did know him, he wrote (in 1995) that he came to the post at St Helena ‘in the early 1960s’, whereas my information is that he took up the job in 1957! At least he was there when the Duke of Edinburgh called on 22 January 1957 and went to the Old House at Longwood. However, this was not mentioned in the account of the Duke’s visit reported in the *St Helena Wirebird*, the monthly Magazine published by the Education Department. But in the April issue there was a brief paragraph to say that the Duke was presented at Longwood with a ‘velvet lined iroko box... containing part of the frame of a mirror from Longwood House’, the presentation being made by M. Martineau! There is no mention of a French Consul coming or going in the Colonial Office Report on St Helena for 1956 and 1957. Michel M. thinks he came in 1957, however, so that should be good enough.

Bob Richardson’s death is a sad loss to St Helena studies, especially its postal history. He discovered the most unusual - and unknown - postcards (as we have here) - and I am sure knew more about the photographers and postcard-producers of St Helena than anyone. It was always a joy to get a letter from him, usually with some pertinent and intriguing questions as well as some unique nugget of golden information.

French Conservateurs at Longwood, St Helena, 1858 to Present

Major Gauthier de Rougemont, 1858-67 assisted by Capt. Masselin (1859-61)
 M. Marechel (1859 onwards)
 Sgt. L. Morilleau (1861-1907)
 Sapper Moutardeau at the Tomb (1861-73)

M. Marechel, became 'guardian' of Longwood in 1867
 Sgt. Lucien D. Morilleau, succeeded as 'guardian' until his death aged 72 in 1907
 M. Henri Roger, 1907-17, from the French Consular Service, retired to France
 M. George Colin succeeded in 1919, his ship having been torpedoed en route to St Helena in 1917. Mme. Colin died at St Helena in 1942
 M. George Peugeot followed in 1947 when Longwood returned to French ownership after WWII
 M. Gilbert Martineau OBE succeeded in 1957, wrote 27 books there, and died in 1995
 M. Michel Dancoisne-Martineau became 'Conservateur des domaines français de Longwood', 29 April 1988, and Honorary Consul for France, June 1991

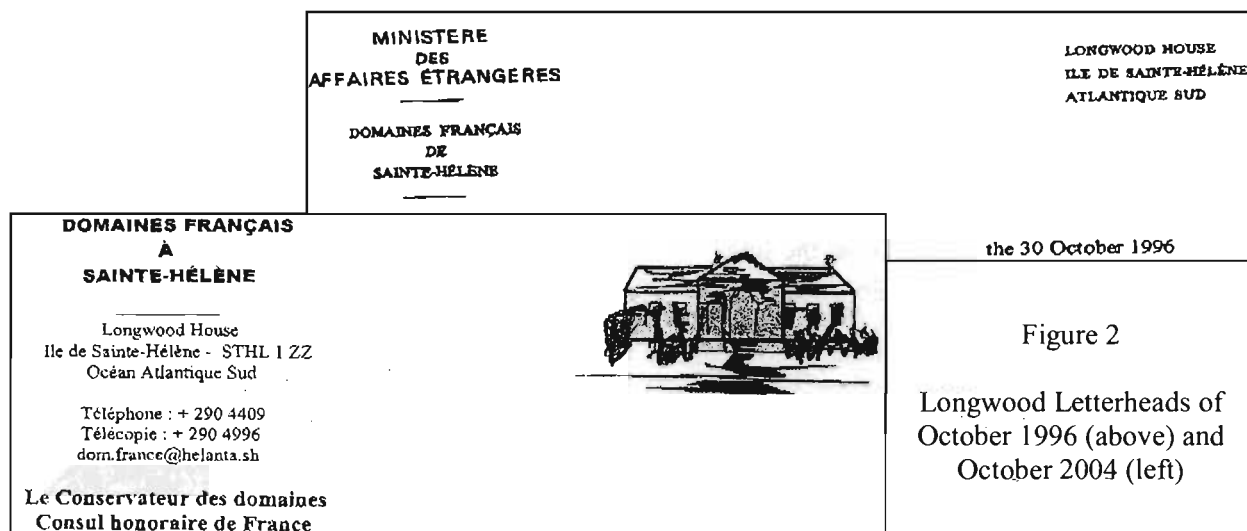
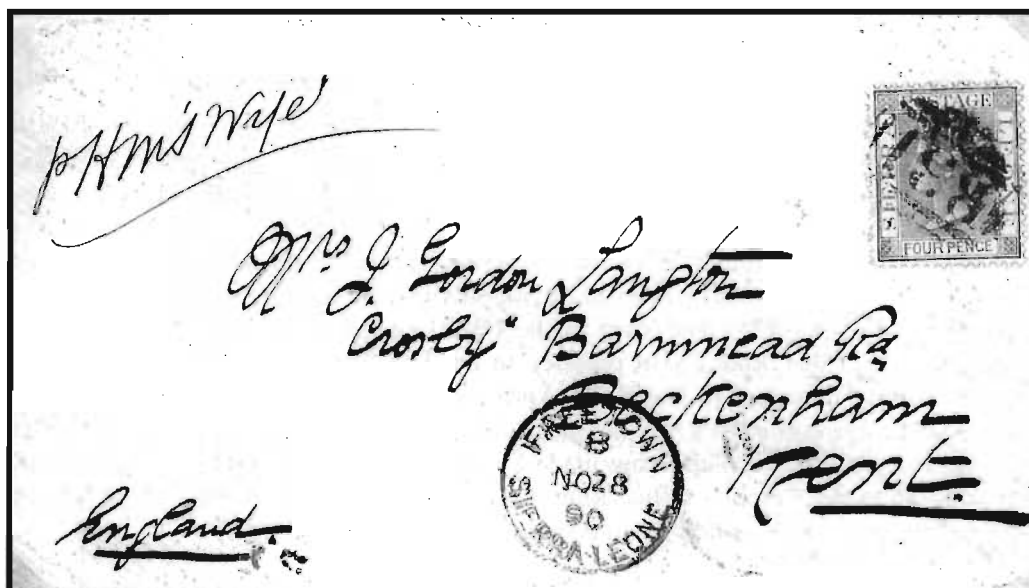


Figure 2

Longwood Letterheads of October 1996 (above) and October 2004 (left)

H.M.S. "Wye"

John Hossack



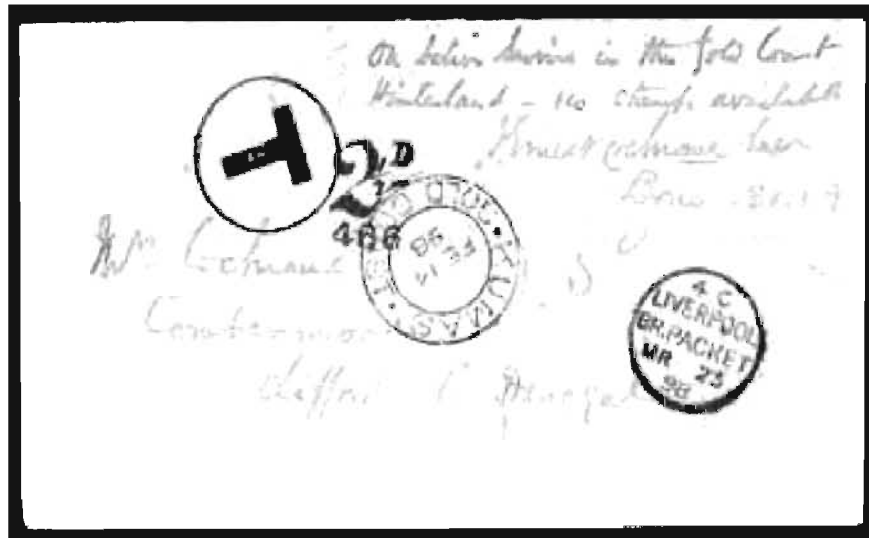
Robert Johnson's article on Post Offices of St Helena (Cameo Vol. 9, p53, June 2005) mentions Royal Naval ships HMS "Wye" and HMS "Raleigh". Shown here is a cover endorsed "p HMS 'Wye'" in manuscript. The item was sent from Sierra Leone to Beckenham, Kent in November 1890 at the 4d rate.



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More on PanAm FAM 18 & 22 “Via Natal, Bolama to Europe”

Jack Ince & Barbara Priddy

Reference is made to the succession of articles published in the Air Post Journal and elsewhere between 1997 and 2001 by Richard Beith, Bob Wilscek, the late Frans van Beveren and Jack Ince (Ref 2) primarily relating to airmail carried by Pan Am services FAM 18 and 22 between 1941 and 1945. In particular, van Beveren in his article in the Air Post Journal of Feb 1998 commented on mail from S.America to Europe which carried m/s endorsements or hand-stamps directing carriage “via Natal-Bolama-Lisboa” or “via Africa-Lisboa-Londres” or similar, He wrote “...obviously the Pan Am FAM 22 airmail was picked up by the B.O.A.C at neutral Bolama”!!

While we recognise van Beveren’s expertise on these Pan Am services, we have been unable to locate any authority for this assumption. In fact, John Wilson’s comprehensive work (Ref 1) which resulted from a lengthy and detailed study of the relevant wartime documents at the Civil Aviation Library in London (U.K), makes no reference to any BOAC scheduled call at Bolama on its UK – West Africa service between 1939 and 1945. Wilson’s study was reinforced by the inclusion of detailed extracts from flight services with permission of the CAA and HMSO.

As from February 1941 Bolama in Portuguese West Africa, became a port of call on the Pan Am FAM 18 winter service when flying west across the South Atlantic to Belem in Brazil. There was no service in the opposite direction east from Belem, as the more northerly route was used. On the other hand Natal, also on the coast of Brazil, was used both outward and return from Lagos on the FAM 22 service from 1942; the Brazilian terminus connecting there with the Pan Am/ Panagra service from South American countries.

While the air link between Lisbon and the UK by BOAC did not extend to Africa and to Lagos, the flying boat service thereto did exist but priority on space was given to military and diplomatic needs with civilian mail being accepted only when practicable. It was not until mid 1943 or later when even outward mail for West Africa was accepted.

A further aspect adversely affecting the carriage of mail on FAM 22 which is often overlooked is that Pan Am opened this route primarily at the instigation and with the diplomatic and financial support of the US administration who desired the link for both urgent military and strategic reasons. In fact, although FAM 22 was only inaugurated by Pan Am at the end of 1941, by 1943 the US Air transport Command had assumed direct control of the service, continuing to use Pan Am aircraft and crews. The carriage of mail was low on ATC’s list of priorities and both aircraft and crews were subject to diversion onto “special military missions”, and for the transport of military supplies and personnel. However, through the representations of Pan Am’s chairman, the need to demonstrate that it was a commercial airmail route was not overlooked completely. As a result of these demands on cargo space, especially on eastbound flights, carriage of air mail could be unreliable and subject to delay and did not compare with the service provided by FAM 18 on both its northern and southern Atlantic routes.

South American postal administrations appear, on balance, to have ignored route directions endorsed on covers and usually, without deletion, to have forwarded mail by the most reliable route; FAM 18. A sure indication of the route used, after 8th December 1941 - the date of the USA becoming a combatant – is the location of any censorship, which from our experience is usually New York or Bermuda, despite directions on the face “via Bolama” etc.

The occasional cover has been seen which has been carried twice across the Atlantic i.e. by FAM 22 west to North America via South America and thence FAM 18 east to the U.K etc. However, the conclusion must be that while FAM 22 was used for carriage of mail from West Africa (and points further east) to both South and North America and, especially from end 1941 to mid 1942, to the U.K, the reverse is not true. Mail from South America for Europe (and even for West Africa) was normally carried by Panagra via New York and FAM 18 and this was subject to allied censorship.

The only question which remains is why hand-stamps were produced (? officially) and why a number of South American correspondents thought a route via Bolama was possible. It has even been suggested it was the result of false dissemination by Allied official sources (with the co-operation of Pan Am) to route mail from South America via an Allied censor i.e. New York or Bermuda. Is this possible?

The following examples of airmail from South America to Europe will illustrate this fact.

FIGURE	DATE	TO/FROM	ENDORSEMENT	CENSOR	PROBABLE ROUTE
1	May 1942	Brazil/France (unoccupied)	Via Natal (Official h/s AIR MAIL VIA USA)	BY Bermuda	FAM 18
2	June 1942	Argentina/Portugal	Via Natal/Bolama (typed)	Bermuda	FAM 18
	June 1942	Argentina/Portugal	Via Natal/Bolama (typed)	Bermuda	FAM 18
	June 1942	Brazil/UK	Via Africa—Lisboa—Londres (boxed h/s)	Bermuda	FAM 18
	Sept 1942	Uruguay/Croatia	Par Avion de Buenos Aires a Roma G (boxed h/s)	Not censored	FAM 18
	Jan 1943	Brazil/Portugal	Europa via Natal (h/s)	New York & Bermuda	FAM 18
3	June 1943	Brazil/UK	Via Natal (typed)	Brazil & UK	FAM 18
	Nov 1943	Cameroons/Chile	Via Natal/Buenos Aires (m/s)	Free French & Lagos	FAM 22
a)	Mar 1944	Brazil/Scotland	Via Natal/Portugal (typed)	Brazil & UK	FAM 18 or 22
	July 1944	Argentina/Portugal	Via Bolama (typed)	New York	FAM 18
4	Aug 1945 (post-war)	Chile/Switzerland	Via B. Aires-Natal-Bolama-Lisboa (m/s)	Not censored	FAM 18

Note

a) It is possible, but unlikely, that this cover could have been carried by FAM 22

Figure 1





Figure 2
(at 75%)

Figure 3 (at 75%)



Figure 4
(at 75%)

References

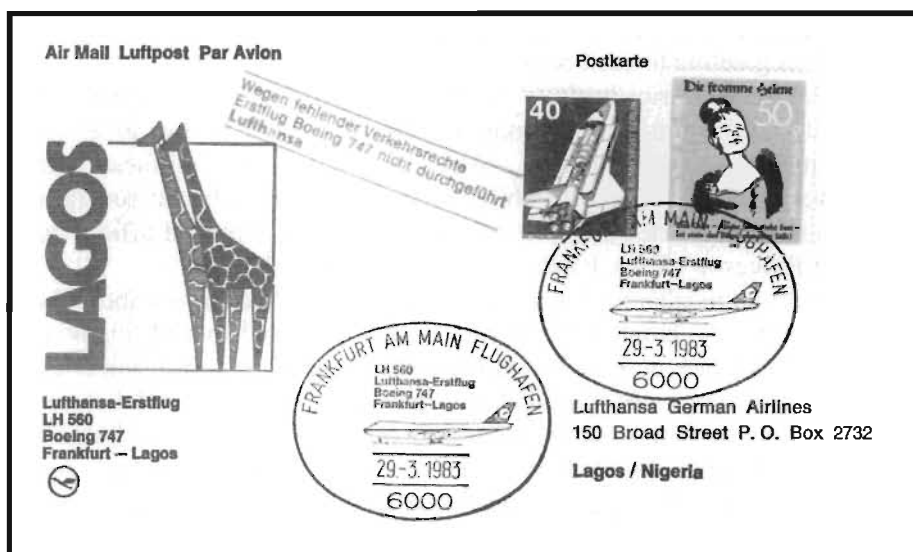
1. Wilson John, "Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939-45 (British Empire)", 1994
2. Sundry articles in the Airpost Journal and especially
 - a) Richard Beith—issues in 1997-98
 - b) Robert Wilcsek—issues in 1999
 - c) Francis van Beveren—issues in 1998
 - d) Jack Ince—issues in 2000-2001



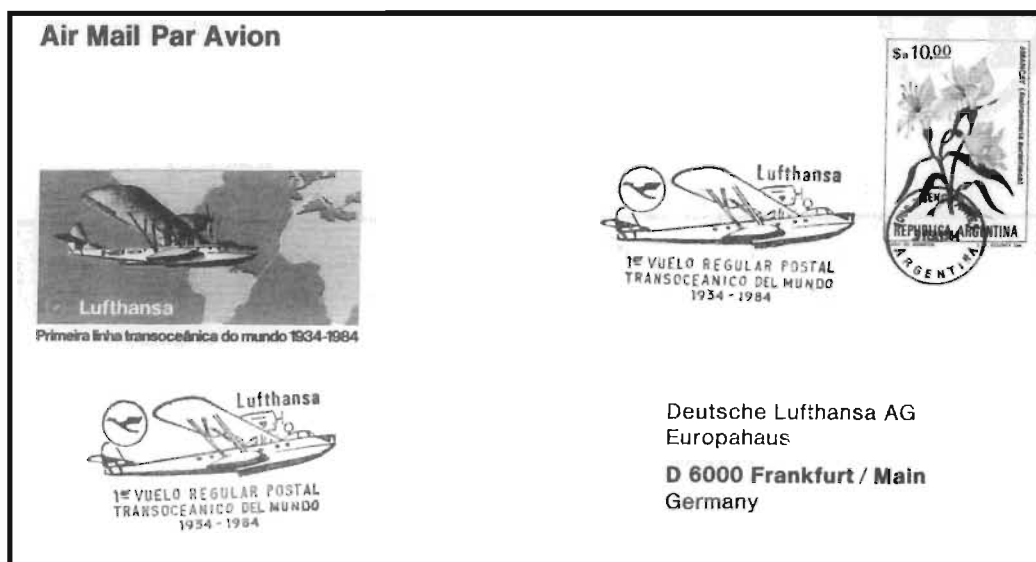
Lufthansa Commemorative Covers

John Knight

Since we are coming up to date with the list of First Flights in Cameo, possibly the following will be of interest, marking Lufthansa's first Boeing 747 flight from Frankfurt to Lagos



Members might also like to see the attractive cover produced in 1984 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first regular transoceanic services to South America via the west Coast of Africa



Sierra Leone Temporary Skeleton Handstamps

Frank Walton FRPSL

Completely out of the blue I received a telephone call from John Wilson, a long-standing member of our society. He was in the process of moving house and had come across a notebook and pile of correspondence that he had 'filed' many years before. These had come from the late Harold Macmillan, who had presumably acquired them from the originator, a Mr P.W. Hosking from Worcestor Park in Surrey.

Shortly after this call, I was delighted to receive the material in the post - and what a gold mine it has turned out to be! Mr Hosking was obviously an avid collector and researcher of Sierra Leone postmarks; his ambition was to identify all offices that had ever existed in Sierra Leone and then obtain an example of a postmark from each. He was active in the period 1959 to 1961 - which of course makes him one of the pioneers in this field. He had accessed the Sierra Leone Government Gazettes in the public record office, but these didn't mention every office that he had found example from. He then took a course of action that perhaps seemed obvious at the time: he wrote to Mr T.R.C. Raikes, the Postmaster General in Freetown, and asked him for all the information he sought. Perhaps more astonishingly Raikes replied in phenomenal detail. The correspondence between them continued for almost two years, towards the end of which they were passing on Christmas greeting to each other's families.

But the correspondence didn't restrict itself to information. Hosking enclosed numerous self-addressed envelopes that apparently bore mint Sierra Leone stamps, and asked Raikes to arrange for them to be cancelled at various small up-country offices. Although the contents of these letters are long since dispersed, it appears that Raikes was able to oblige. Perhaps worryingly, on several occasions Hosking asks for the datestamps to be set back a few years to provide him examples of offices that had since closed and he was trying to get Raikes to get the handstamp out of the central stores.

Some of the most fascinating insights in this pile of letters are the discussions about the use of temporary handstamps. These temporary handstamps have always provided postal historians with hours of entertainment and, for Sierra Leone at least, it is still a fertile ground for new discoveries. For those new to the subject, a skeleton handstamp was provided to a new post office for use before a permanent steel postmark device was provided. The steel handstamps were ordered from the United Kingdom and took approximately six months to arrive. The history of the recording these postmarks is comparatively recent. Philip Beale lists only three examples in his standard book in 1988 (Ref. 1); I extended this to a total of 20

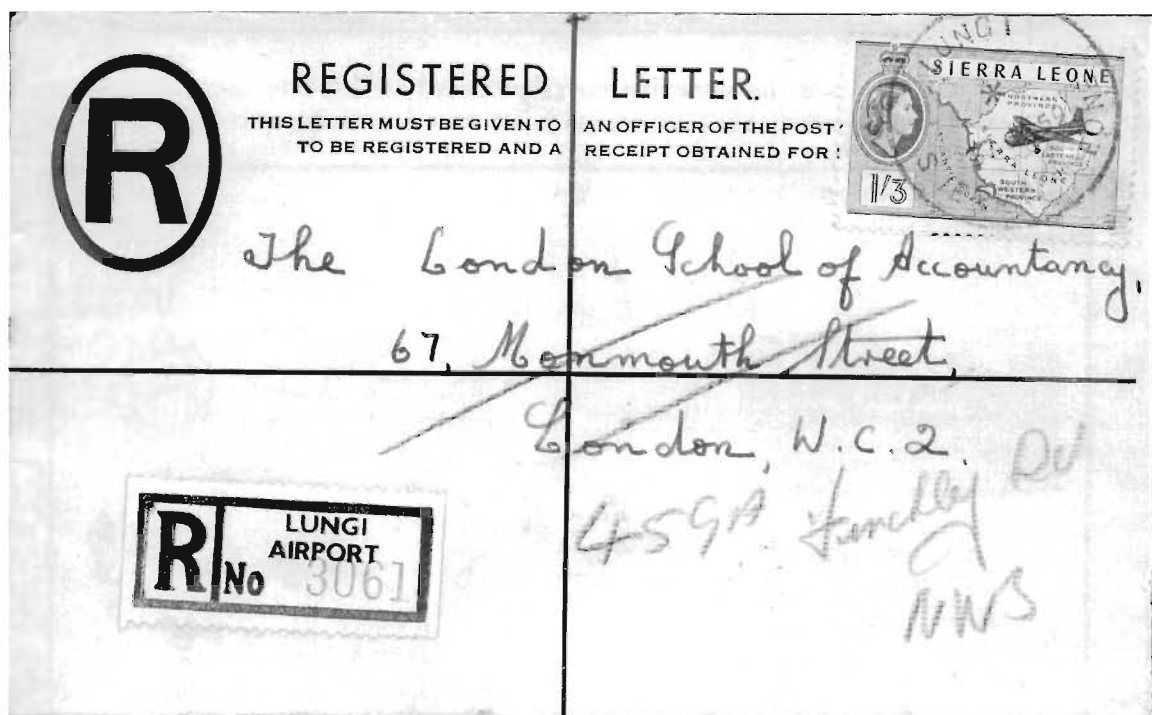


Figure 1. Skeleton handstamp used on registered envelope to London on 27 July 1959

in 1990 (Ref. 2) and then to 22 in a follow up article in 1991 (Ref. 3); and Ted Proud added two more in his book in 1994 (Ref. 4). Since then nothing has come to light, and the story went dormant.

Hosking's notes have added many new offices to my lists, viz. Bumbuna, Faduga, Karle, Kasserri, Massam, Numea and Rochen. I have yet to see an example of any of these, so illustrations would be most gratefully received.

Hosking questioned Raikes in particular detail over the office at Lungi. He couldn't understand why a temporary handstamp appeared after a steel one had been in use (Fig. 1). The answer to this one was quite simple: the office at Lungi was completely destroyed by a fire on 14 March 1958, which meant that they needed a new canceller very quickly thereafter.

I can't recall ever seeing covers addressed to Hosking, but I would be delighted to learn of any in members' collections.

Summary of Sierra Leone Skeleton Handstamps

FLW Ref	Post Office	(Re-) Opened	Earliest	Latest	Permanent
002.01	ALLEN TOWN	01 Apr 1943	14 Aug 1943	30 May 1944	03 Mar 1945
006.04	BANDAJUMA	13 Jan 1959	31 Jul 1959	7 Sep 1959	
017.01	BOAJIBU	09 Feb 1948	1948	1948	27 Sep 1948
021.01	BUEDU	28 Apr 1956	30 May 1956	30 May 1956	20 Jun 1956
023.02	BUMBUNA	02 Mar 1953	05 Mar 1953	05 Mar 1953	03 Jun 1953
032.02	FADUGA	01 Nov 1957	14 Nov 1957	14 Nov 1957	10 Oct 1958
204.01	FTOWN-BAUYA T.P.O.	20 Apr 1945	18 Jul 1946		
038.01	GANDOHUN FAK	01 Sep 1955	17 Sep 1955	24 Sep 1955	13 Oct 1955
045.02	GERIHUN	14 Feb 1947	04 Nov 1951	16 Mar 1953	
054.03	JAIAMA	02 Mar 1954	31 Aug 1954	14 Oct 1954	11 Jan 1955
056.02	JIMMI BAGBO	28 Mar 1954	05 Apr 1954	29 Dec 1954	28 Jan 1955
067.01	KARLE	06 Jun 1956	12 Jul 1956	1957	23 Oct 1957
070.02	KASSERI	06 Oct 1958	21 Oct 1958	21 Oct 1958	11 May 1959
072.05	KENEMA	02 Oct 1956	29 Nov 1956		
076.01	KOINDU	08 Apr 1955	16 May 1955	23 May 1955	13 Jun 1955
088.02	LUNGI	Fire 14 Mar 1958	13 Apr 1958	15 Aug 1959	06 Oct 1959
108.02	MANOWA	21 Mar 1955	26 Mar 1955	09 May 1955	7 Oct 1955
110.02	MASSA	30 Jun 1960	18 Aug 1960	18 Aug 1960	
111.02	MASSAM	16 Jul 1960	14 Sep 1960	14 Sep 1960	
119.01	NEW ENGLAND (inverted E)	01 Jun 1946	14 Jun 1946	20 Sep 1946	
119.02	NEW ENGLAND	01 Oct 1946	22 Mar 1947	03 Apr 1947	
016.21	NEW SITE BO	06 Jun 1955	28 Jun 1955	29 Aug 1955	11 Oct 1955
016.32	NGALU (ROAD BO?)	10 Mar 1953	12 Aug 19??	12 Aug 19??	03 Aug 1955
122.02	NUMEA	07 Jun 1959	11 Sep 1959	11 Sep 1959	02 Sep 1959
132.01	ROCHEN	10 Mar 1958	19 Mar 1958	19 Mar 1958	
138.04	ROTIFUNK	27 Jul 1944	31 Jul 1944		
035.91	WATER ST TOWN	14 Mar 1955	27 May 1955	17 Sep 1955	
035.92	WATER STREET / FREETOWN	17 Sep 1955	24 Sep 1955	12 Oct 1955	
208.01	WATER ST BO	7 May 1955	7 May 1955		
162.03	YONIBANA	27 Jan 1955	21 Mar 1955	02 May 1955	
165.02	YOYEMA	02 Oct 1944	15 Dec 1944	03 Jun 1945	03 Jan 1946

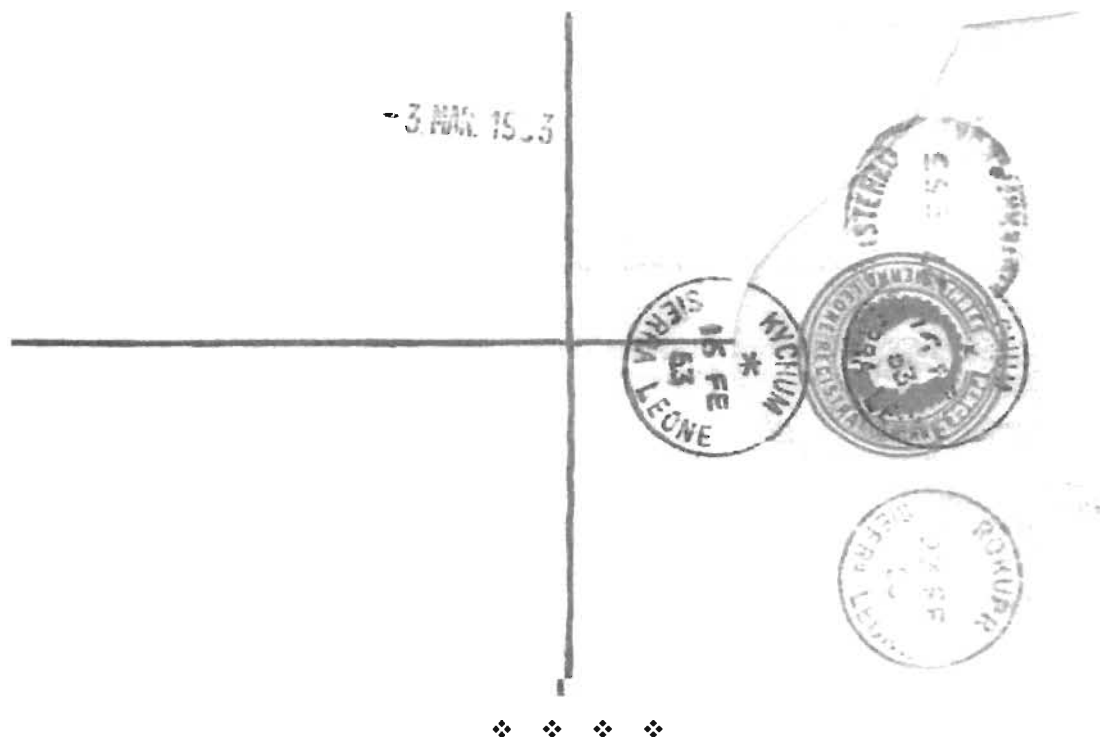
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1. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, RPSL, London 1988
2. Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*, WASC, Sheffield 1990
3. Walton F.L., "The Postmarks of Sierra Leone - New Discoveries", *Cameo*, Volume 4 p101, WASC, July 1991
4. Proud E.B., *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1994

Kychum, Sierra Leone Postmark

Ray Revell

I illustrate below the reverse of a KGVI 3d registered envelope which bears on the front a 1/- stamp cancelled with cds of KYCHUM dated 16 FE 53, together with a manuscript registration label using the same spelling. The reverse has two further strikes plus a transit cds of ROKUPR 23 FE 53 and an oval Freetown registration mark dated 27 FE 53. This KYCHUM cds predates the 8 AU 58 KYCHOM listed by Walton (The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854 to 1961, WASC 1990) as type 083.01, which was presumably a correction to comply with the generally accepted spelling. A further cover exists with the same handstamp dated 2 OC 52. This town lies at the mouth of the Great Scarcies River, had a Government Medical Centre and was known for its fishing industry.



Sierra Leone Christmas Mail

Frank Walton FRPSL

On a visit to Kew I went through the Sierra Leone Royal Gazette for the years 1953 and 1954. Although I didn't find the elusive announcement about the increase of registration fee that I was seeking, several useful snippets were encountered. In particular, I have copied below an announcement (Ref. 1) concerning Christmas mails that year.

Christmas Mails

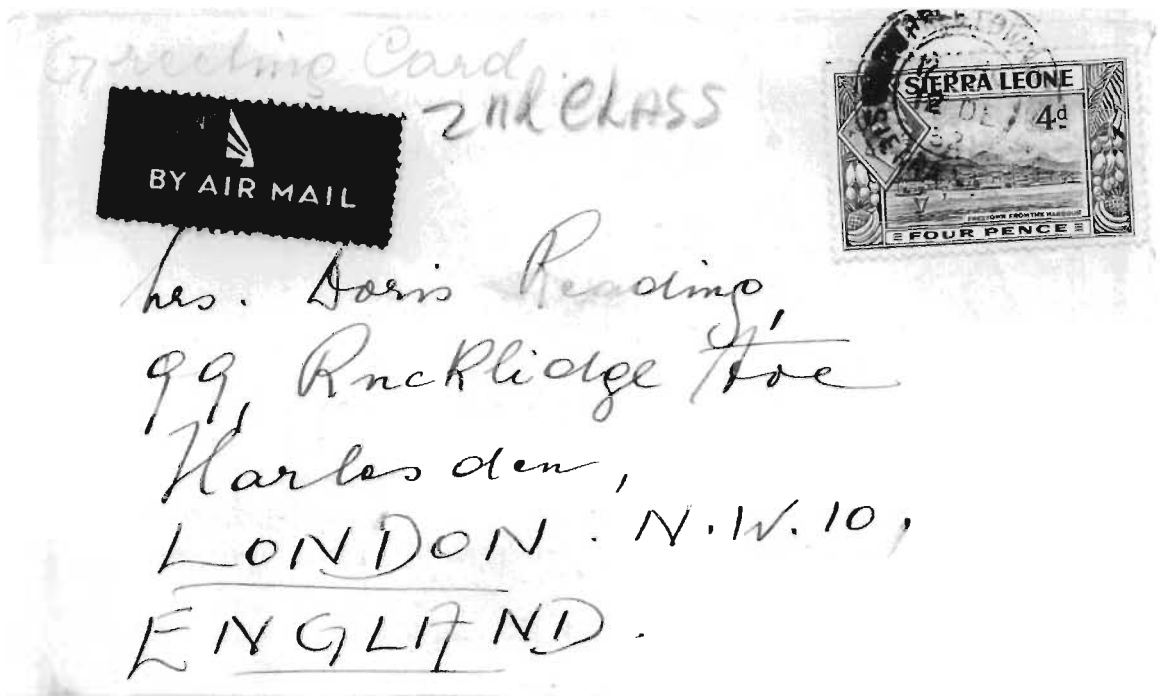
	<i>UK</i>	<i>Gambia</i>	<i>Gold Coast</i>	<i>Nigeria</i>
<i>Date for last surface letters</i>	<i>27 Nov</i>	<i>13 Dec</i>	<i>11 Dec</i>	<i>11 Dec</i>
<i>Date for last airmail</i>	<i>14 Dec</i>	<i>20 Dec</i>	<i>21 Dec</i>	<i>21 Dec</i>

Christmas cards with not more than five words can be sent second class Air. Cards must be unsealed, superscribed "Greetings Card" in the upper left corner and have a blue airmail label. Rates available from post offices.

Rates for surface postage on cards to Commonwealth and Foreign countries is 1½d first 2 oz plus ½d each extra 2 oz. Postage within Sierra Leone is ½d per 2 oz.

*T.R.C.Raikes
29 September 1953*

Whilst I cannot illustrate a cover from 1953, I did find one in my collection that demonstrates the practice one year before. Fig.1 shows a cover postmarked 12 December 1952 from Freetown to London, correctly endorsed 'Greetings Card' by the sender. The blue annotation '2nd Class' appears to be in a different hand, perhaps added by a postal official?



In 1958 the rate has apparently increased to 6d (Fig. 2). Note that this envelope has been endorsed 'Printed Matter' rather than 'Greetings Card'.



Reference 1. Sierra Leone Royal Gazette, 29 Oct 1953, p615. PRO ref: CRO/66.

Sierra Leone: 1916 TPO Postmarks on incoming mail

Peter Richards



I recently bought the illustrated post card, which I felt was sufficiently unusual to submit to Cameo. The card was posted in the Belgian Congo on 4th December 1915 and addressed to Freetown. On arrival at Freetown the addressee had moved upcountry to Makump. At this date Makump (later known as Magburaka) had no Post Office as this did not open until 1st October 1920. However it did have a station on the Bauya (Boia) – Makeni branch of the Government Railway. To get the card to Makump therefore it was sent initially to the Freetown – Bo TPO and its rectangular postmark (Walton Ref 202.03) was applied On 24th January 1914. The card left the man line at Bauya (Boia) and was put on the branch line Boia – Yonnie TPO (that also applied a postmark again 24th January 1916) for delivery to Makump.

I cannot recall having seen two different Sierra Leone TPO's on the same cover before nor can I recall having seen any other examples on incoming mail. The card also shows very well what the TPO was used for in these early days – collecting and taking mail for places that were on the railway but which had no Post Office.

Reference

1. F L Walton: The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854 to 1961. WASC 1990.



Ngalu Road, Sierra Leone Postmark

Ray Revell

NGALU ROAD SIERRA LEONE cds dated 16 AP 63 with asterisk code has appeared on a 3d Freedom From Hunger stamp on loan from Michael Hamilton. Walton (Ref. 1) lists only Ngalu Road SA. LEONE as type 016.31. The cds is of normal size and not a skeleton.

Reference

1. F L Walton: The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854 to 1961. WASC 1990.

Postal Arrangements in Modern Liberia Revisited

Marc Parren

There exists quite some confusion about the postal system and its activities in Liberia ever since a few hundred armed fighters calling themselves the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) attacked border posts in Nimba County, north-eastern Liberia on Christmas Eve in 1989. These attacks, which launched a campaign to oust the dictatorship of President Samuel Doe, effectively triggered a war that has brought the almost complete destruction of Africa's oldest republic and even brought havoc to its neighbouring countries. Once war broke out, it quickly spread to other parts of the country. By mid-1990, the NPFL, under Charles Taylor, had seized control of most of the country and had besieged the capital, Monrovia. What also became public knowledge early on was that the NPFL had received support from Libya, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire giving it immediately a regional dimension. Ever since then very little post has been seen from Liberia leading to the belief quoted by Inoue (Ref. 1) based on missionary reports 'that there had not been a postal service in Liberia for at least 10 years previous.' I will demonstrate here the events that evolved, the parties involved and the postal implications based on items in possession of the author and his annual visits to Liberia over the last five years.

By September 1990, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had sent in its Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to halt the carnage. Originally, ECOMOG was intended to monitor a ceasefire which had yet to be signed by the NPFL at the time of deployment. However, they soon adopted a peace enforcement posture after the execution of Doe in September 1990. The initial deployment of ECOMOG also brought into focus the sharp rivalries between the region's Anglophone and Francophone countries. President Tolbert (1971-80) had established strong links between the Liberian state and the Francophone axis dominated by Côte d'Ivoire. By executing Tolbert and members of his family and inner circle, Doe broke these ties spectacularly, and subsequently forged a close alliance with Babangida's Nigeria. With Ivorian and Burkinabe backing, the NPFL incursion threatened to shift the balance of power back in favour of the Francophones. Considering this, ECOMOG can be seen partly as a Nigerian (read Anglophone) attempt to defend its regional profile.

Not surprisingly substantial resistance to ECOMOG deployment was felt from Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. ECOMOG was the first example in the world of a 'regional' peacekeeping force sent in to oversee the resolution of an internal armed conflict. From the outset, the force has been guided largely by the Nigerians, who have provided around 70% of its human, financial and military resources. Initially ECOMOG comprised some 4,000 troops, mostly Nigerian, but also from Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Togo and Mali initially refused to send troops to Liberia, and the only Francophone country involved at this stage was Guinea, which bore the brunt of Liberia's refugee problem. Later during the conflict, Senegal, Mali, and two non-ECOWAS countries, Tanzania and Uganda, did deploy troops after successive internationally-sanctioned bids to dilute Nigerian dominance. However, only the Malians maintained a sustained presence. The Senegalese quickly pulled out when six of their soldiers were killed by the NPFL. Troops from Tanzania and Uganda pulled out of Liberia in the summer of 1995, after just 18 months service, due to international reluctance to sustain their costs.

Especially through the early months, the regional politics of the Liberian conflict helped shape the nature of external responses. For instance, Taylor's Libyan connections significantly damaged his profile in Washington while his Ivorian links increased his standing with the French. However, international responses must also be understood against the backdrop of the dramatic global events in and around 1989. The end of the Cold War occasioned a shift in the West's strategic interests and with it, a decline of interest in sub-Saharan Africa. Marginalisation of Africa in the so-called 'new world order' meant that Liberia's conflict can be said to have occurred at inauspicious times. The contemporaneous crisis in the Persian Gulf also helped determine that the external intervention which did occur was either too little or too late (Fig. 1)

The United Nations, which appeared to have regained potency after the end of the Cold War, was constrained from embarking on direct intervention in Liberia largely due to the burgeoning demands of its existing peacekeeping operations (Fig. 2). However, lack of resources does not fully account for the UN's



Figure 1 reduced to 75%.

1991 Cover from the Ghanaian contingent of UNIKOM in Kuwait during the First Gulf War



Figure 2 reduced to 75%

1993 Cover from the Nigerian contingent of UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia

initial inaction. The fact is that for more than a year from the start of the fighting, African countries frustrated every attempt of the UN Security Council to meet and discuss the crisis. Côte d'Ivoire was particularly resistant to discussions, while Zaire and Ethiopia were also obstructive, reluctant to allow a precedent for intervention that in time might be applicable to them (Fig. 3).

In 1991, the war spilled into Sierra Leone where NPFL-backed rebels in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched an anti-government insurrection. By this time, the swift manner in which the NPFL had over-run Liberia and the possibility of a domino effect had already helped

spur a forceful regional intervention in the crisis. This intervention, spearheaded by ECOMOG, was largely the initiative of the nervous Anglophone powers. However, the ceasefire signed in November broke down comprehensively in October 1992, when Taylor's fighters again attacked Monrovia and the peacekeeping force responded with heavy bombing raids. Events moved rapidly after this point, leading to the proliferation of armed factions, continued warfare, a string of national and international conferences and the signing of more peace agreements. In early 1993 ECOMOG troops increased to 15,000 (see Fig. 4), but Senegalese withdrew. Later that year Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe announced troop



Figure 3 reduced to 75%
2004 cover from Ghanaian contingent of MONUC in Congo

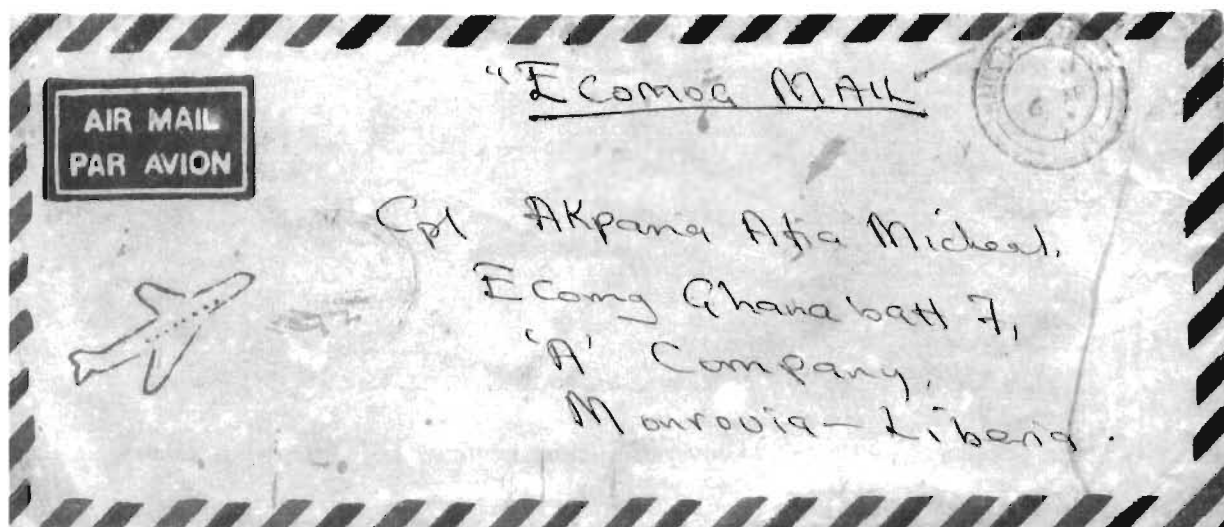


Figure 4 reduced to 75%
1993 cover to ECOMOG Ghanaian forces in Liberia

contributions to ECOMOG. However, Egypt and Zimbabwe later failed to meet their commitments due to financial constraints. Early next year saw the arrival of the East African ECOMOG battalions. The next year saw the integration of Ivorian and Burkinabe troops as part of an expansion drive.

The UN's first significant intervention came three years into the conflict, when the Security Council passed Resolution 788 in November 1992 following the NPFL's second major assault on Monrovia. This resolution supported the arms embargo imposed by ECOWAS on the warring factions and opened the way for what has since been a small but significant UN presence. During UN-assisted talks which culminated in the signing

of the Cotonou Accord in July 1993, a technical team recommended the establishment of a UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). Since its deployment in late 1993, UNOMIL's mandate has been renewed several times, despite threats of withdrawal as late as 1996. The principal objective of the mission has been to monitor and assist ECOMOG in the process of encampment, disarmament and demobilisation. While it was originally mandated to employ around 400 observers, UNOMIL was at full strength for just nine months during 1994. Since 43 of its number were detained and terrorised by NPFL fighters in September of that year, it operated at around quarter strength. Deployment outside Monrovia was only partial and sporadic (see Fig. 5). A rare

domestic cover of August 1993 show that the postal system was still functioning at that time (see Fig. 6).

By 1996, three successive interim governments had been installed with the help of the international community. Over a dozen peace accords had been acceded to by the various parties to the conflict, but none established a lasting cessation of hostilities. In the course of that year West African peacekeepers began a disarmament programme, they cleared land mines and reopened roads, allowing refugees to return in preparation for presidential and legislative elections held in July 1997. Charles Taylor won a landslide victory and his National Patriotic Party won a majority in the National Assembly. The

UNOMIL mission ended in September while ECOMOG left at the end of that year.

However, trouble loomed again when two years later Ghana and Nigeria accused Liberia of supporting Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone. This led the UK and the USA to threaten to suspend aid to Liberia. Not long after the UK intervened in the following chaos which evolved in neighbouring Sierra Leone (see front cover). In September 1999 Guinea accused Liberian forces of entering its territory and attacking border villages. The next year Liberian forces launched a "massive offensive" against rebels in the north while Liberia accused Guinean troops of shelling border villages. By January 2002 more than 50,000 Liberian



Figure 5, reduced to 80%: 1994 cover of Austrian contingent of UNOMIL in Liberia

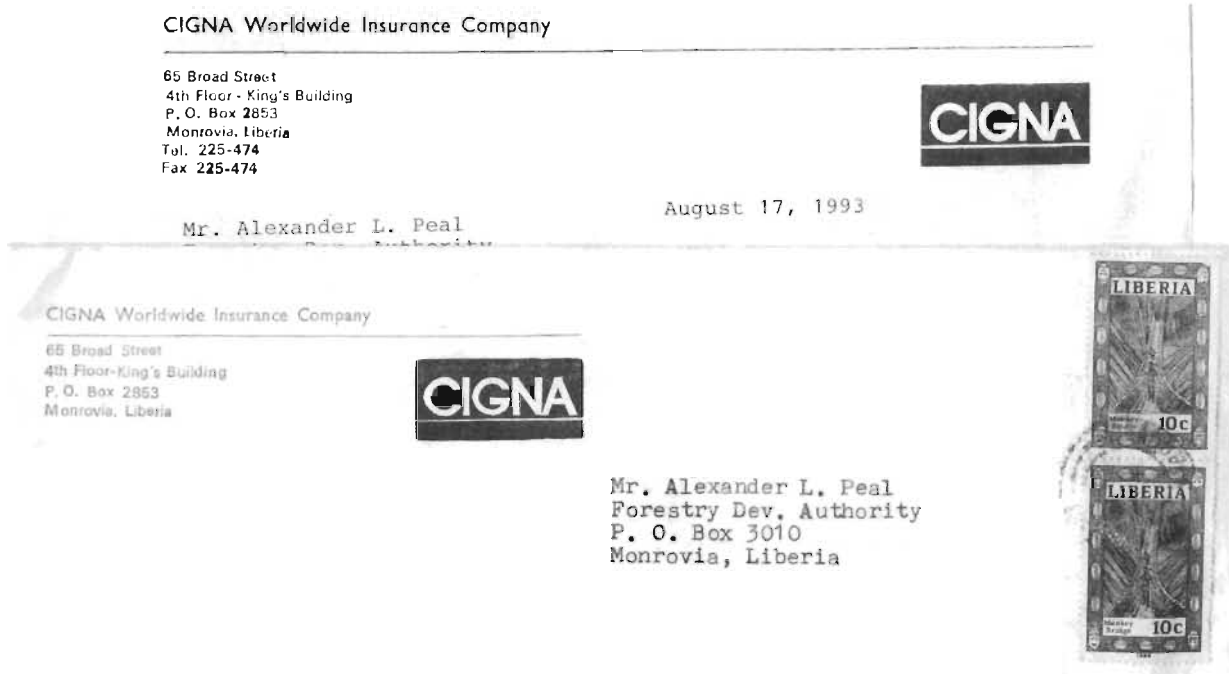


Figure 6, reduced to 70%: a rare 1993 internal civilian letter and cover

and Sierra Leonean refugees had fled the fighting between the rebels and the Liberian forces in the North-west of the country. In February this was followed by Taylor declaring a state of emergency.

March 2003 saw the rebels advance to within 10km of Monrovia. In July the fighting intensified and rebels battled for control of Monrovia and plundered the only operating post office. Before that time stamps were still available at the post office and also special services such as registration were provided as several covers dating to 2000 and 2001 prove (Figs 7 & 8). ECOWAS once more agreed to provide peacekeepers and the first Nigerian peacekeepers arrived in August 2003.

That same month Charles Taylor left Liberia for Calabar, Nigeria after handing power to his deputy Moses Blah and US troops arrived. The interim government and rebels signed a peace accord in Ghana and chose Gyude Bryant to head the interim administration. After the looting of the post office stamps were no longer available until October 2004 with the issue depicting the Chairman of the Transitional Government Gyude Bryant. However, stamps remain a rarity until this very day at the post office. Instead a rectangular postage paid mark has been used at least during 2004 and 2005, while circular and oval Monrovia Postal Exchange marks came into use in the latter year as well (Figs 9 & 10)



Figure 7; reduced to 80%: 20 March 2001 commercial mail from Monrovia to Netherlands

University of Liberia Postal Affairs, Liberia		0968
Receipt for Registration Letter/Packet/Parcels (s) No.		
Sender	F. D. A.	
Address	p.o. Box 3010 - Mon Lib Majmaras Schot Ek 3509 VZ Netherlands	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Date Stamp MONROVIA * 3 20 LIBERIA </div>	
	T. ROKID (Accepting Officer's Signature)	
Draft No.	Amount	

Figure 8: reduced to 85%: 20 March 2001 registration receipt from Monrovia Post Office

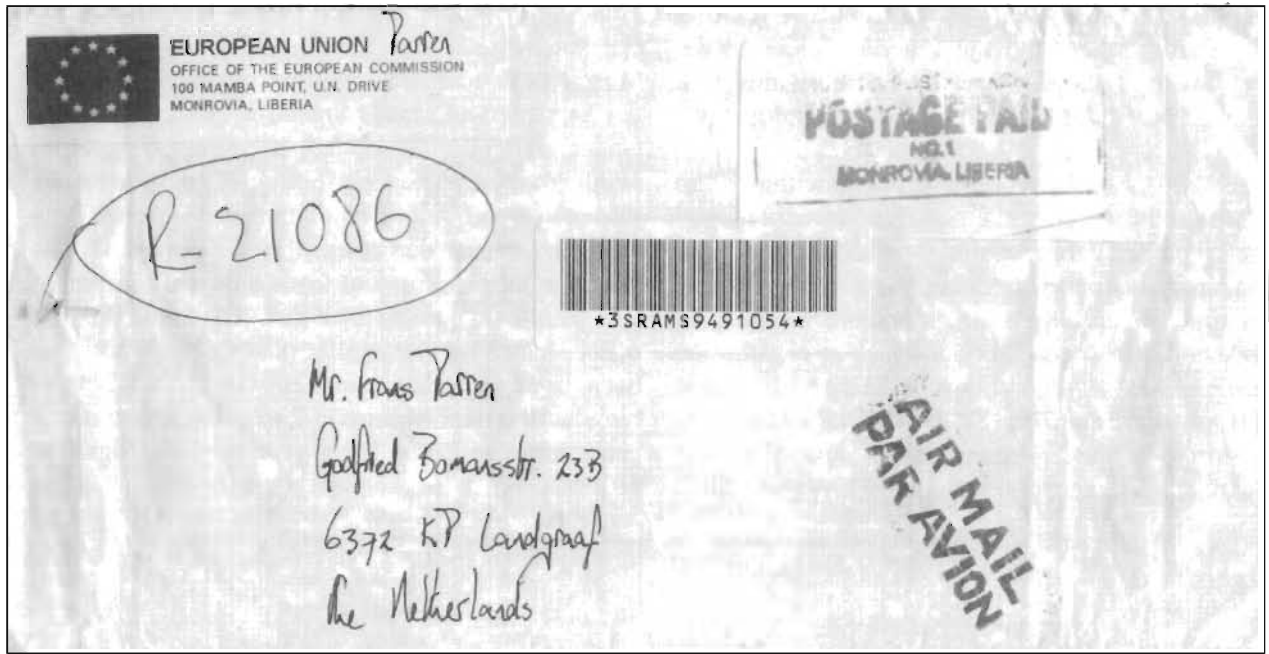


Figure 9 reduced to 75%: commercial mail from Monrovia to Netherlands with Postage paid handstamp

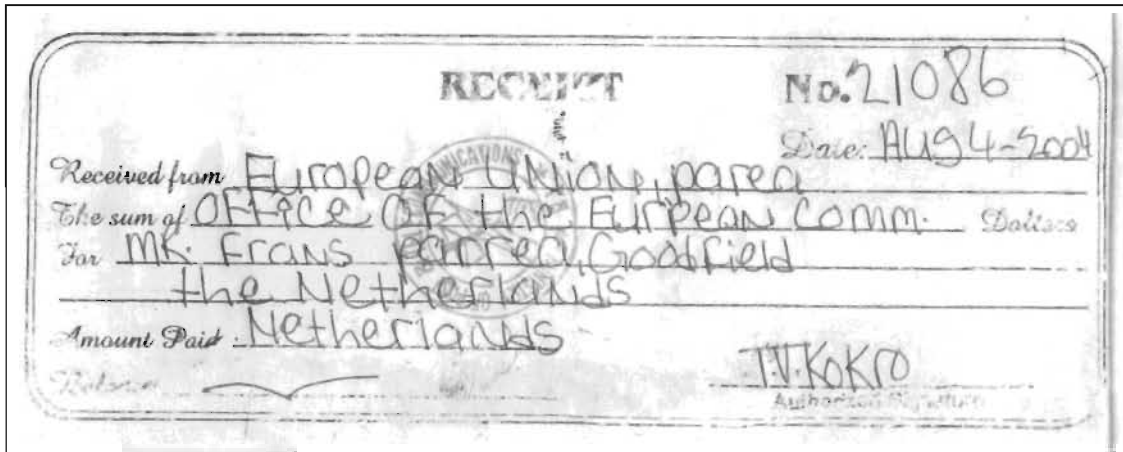
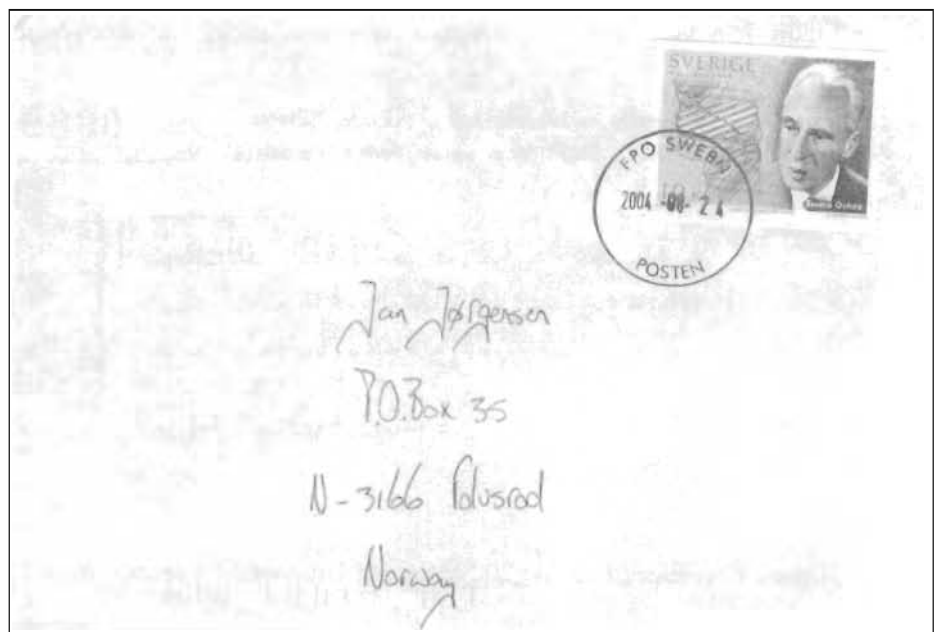


Figure 10 reduced to 85%: registration receipt with circular Posts and Telecommunications handstamp

Figure 11, reduced to 75%: Swedish forces post office in Liberia, 2004



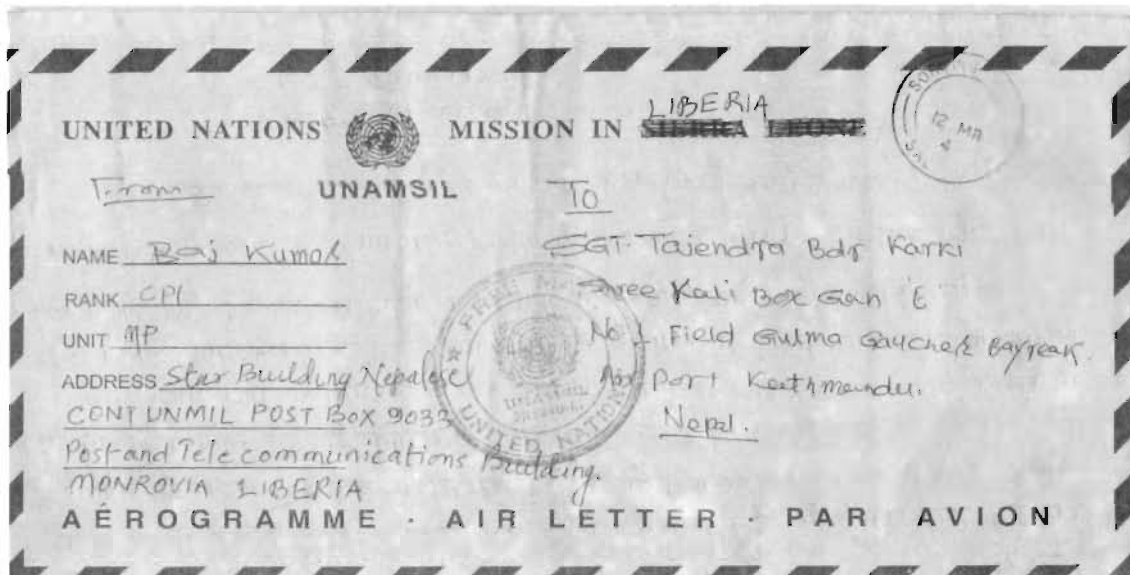


Figure 12, reduced to 65%: Nepalese UNMIL forces free mail using UNAMSIL route via Sierra Leone

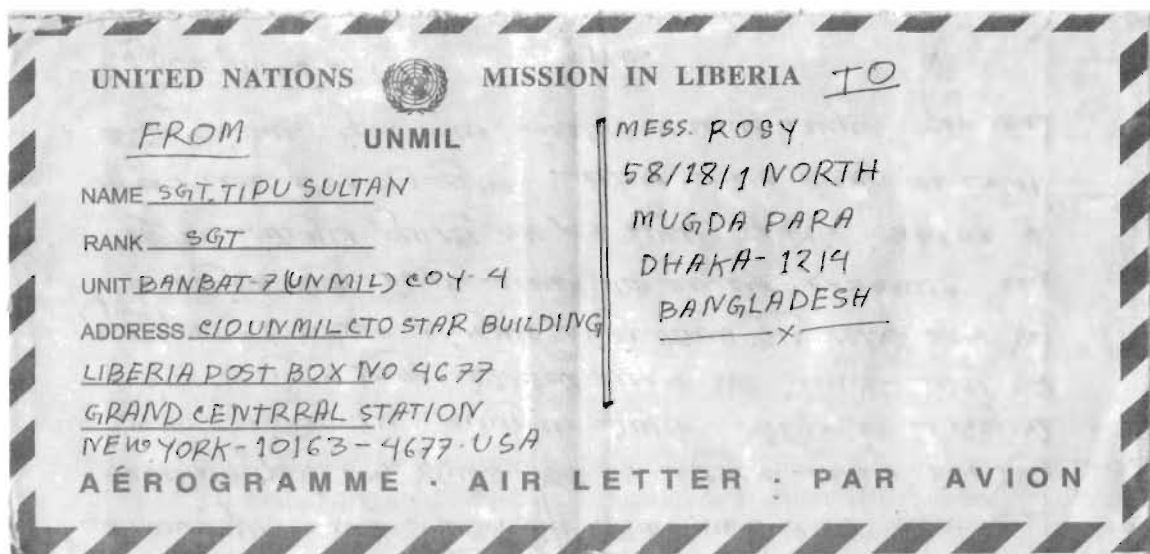
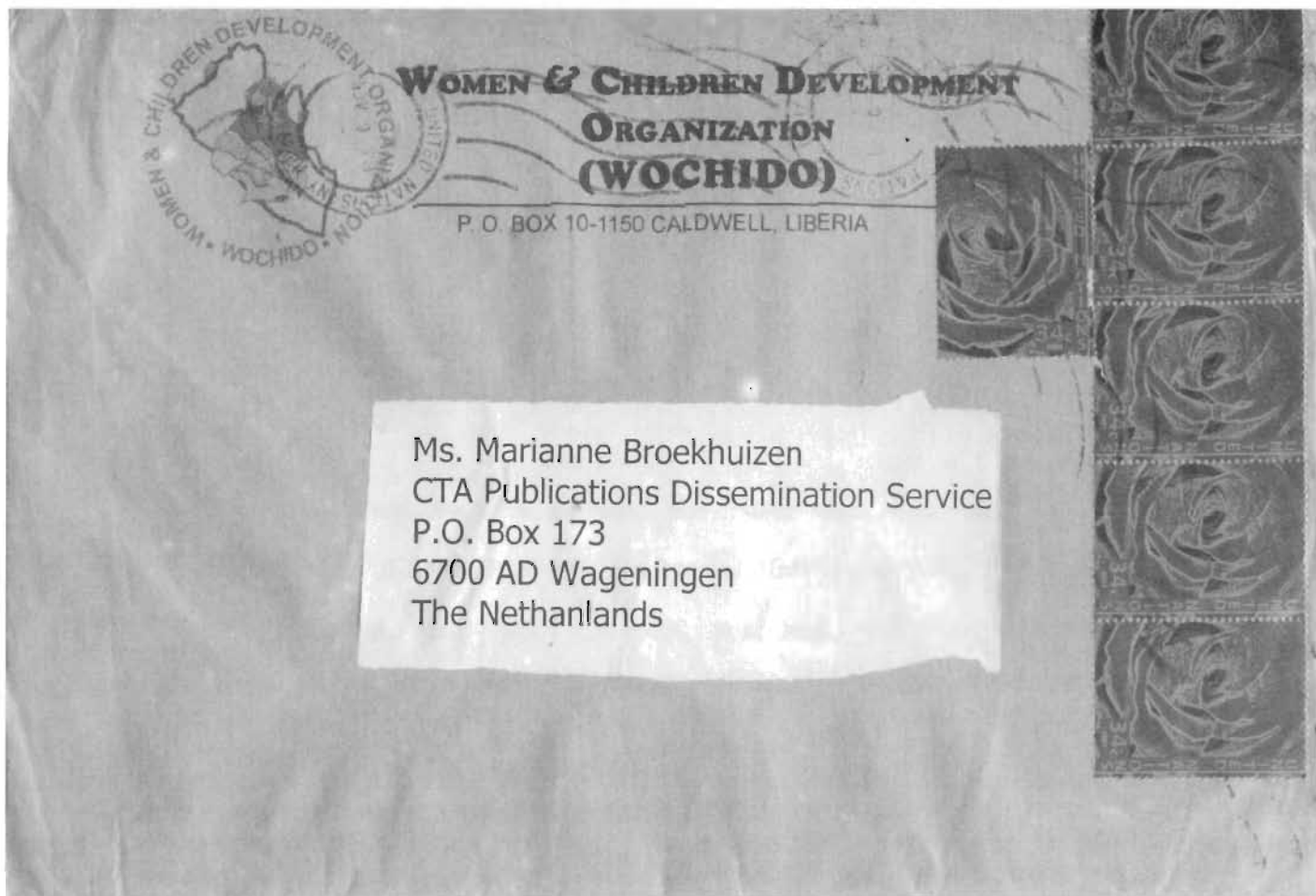


Figure 13, reduced to 65%: Bangladesh UNMIL forces mail via UN flights to New York



Figure 14, reduced to 65%: Ghanaian UNMIL forces mail flown by regular UN flight direct to Accra



than 50,000 Liberians and Sierra

Figure 15: civilian aid agency using the UN flights to New York for more reliable connections to Europe

In September/October 2003 the US forces pulled out again while the UN launched a major peacekeeping mission, deploying thousands of troops. This mission named UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has, next to a civil component, strong international civil police and military components. Countries with strong military presence but lightly armoured are Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Namibia and Pakistan deployed all over the country while Ireland and Sweden are heavily armoured and based in Monrovia. Only the Swedes have had their own army post office based at their camp since their arrival in early 2004 (Fig. 11).

Initially the UNMIL troops used UNAMSIL free mail covers of the UN Peacekeeping Operations in neighbouring Sierra Leone which were shuttled to Freetown where they were further handled through the postal system (Fig. 12). More recent UNMIL free mail covers have been made available but like this Bangladeshi example, are first transported by pouch to New York and only at arrival in Bangladesh handled by their postal authorities (Fig. 13). Since the Liberian civil postal system is seen as unreliable and slow even civil organizations make use of the UN postal system (Fig. 15).

Countries like Ghana have their own postal arrangements since Accra forms an important hub for international flights by UN personnel. There have been regular flights by a UN aircraft since late 2004 which take the Ghanaian mail along (Fig. 14). October 2005 has seen the first and free elections after UNMIL effected an effective disarmament programme - unlike the one executed under the control of ECOMOG before the July 1997 elections.

References

- 1 Takuzo Inoue, "Postal Situation in Liberia from 1989", *Cameo*, Volume 8 pp 294-295, WASC, January 2005
- 2 Marc Parren, "Postal Arrangements in Modern Liberia", *Cameo*, Volume 6 pp 172-174, WASC, July



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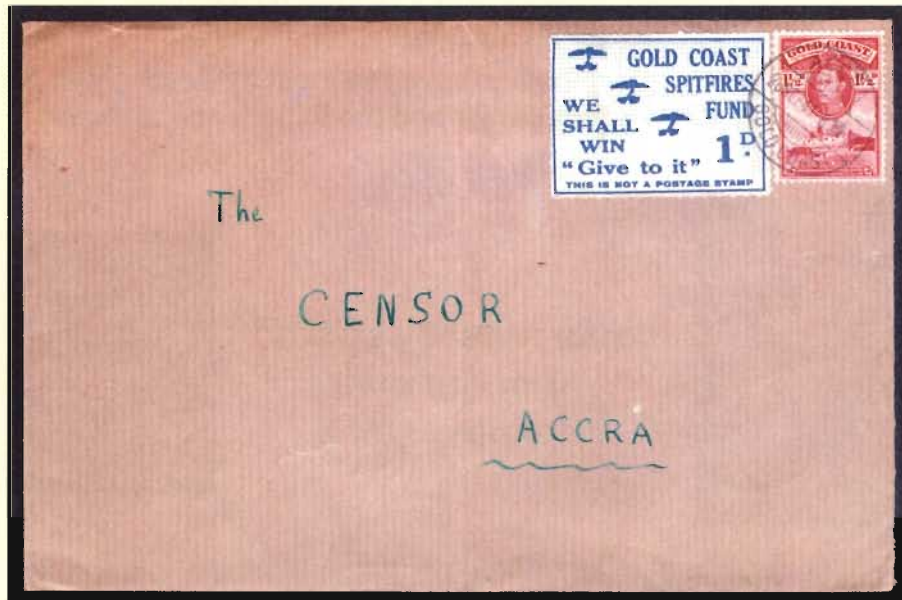
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West African Material at All World Auctions



GOLD COAST: 1941, envelope addressed to "The Censor Accra" franked 1938-44 1½d. and 1d. "Spitfires Fund" vignette; fine. Offered in Harmers recent auction.

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African Squadron at Ascension, 1829

Mike Brown

While looking through earlier issues of *Cameo* an article by Bob Maddocks about an 1830 letter written by Thomas Butten (Maddocks R., "Anti-slavery Patrols off West Africa", *Cameo* Vol 8, No 4 October 2004, pp 204-207) caught my attention. About ten years ago I acquired a letter of 1829 from Ascension that I believed was written by Thomas Butters. It seems from the names, handwriting and context that Bob Maddocks and I have letters written by the same person and I will agree that the author's last name is Butten.

My letter is dated January 17, 1829 with a return address of "Isle of Ascension / Mountain Station" and is addressed to his sister. It took me six months to transpose it as below; just as the author had written including spelling and grammar. I have made no changes. As one reads this letter one learns much about life on Ascension Island; food and weather conditions, murder, pirates, different ships and ports of call, the people and much more.

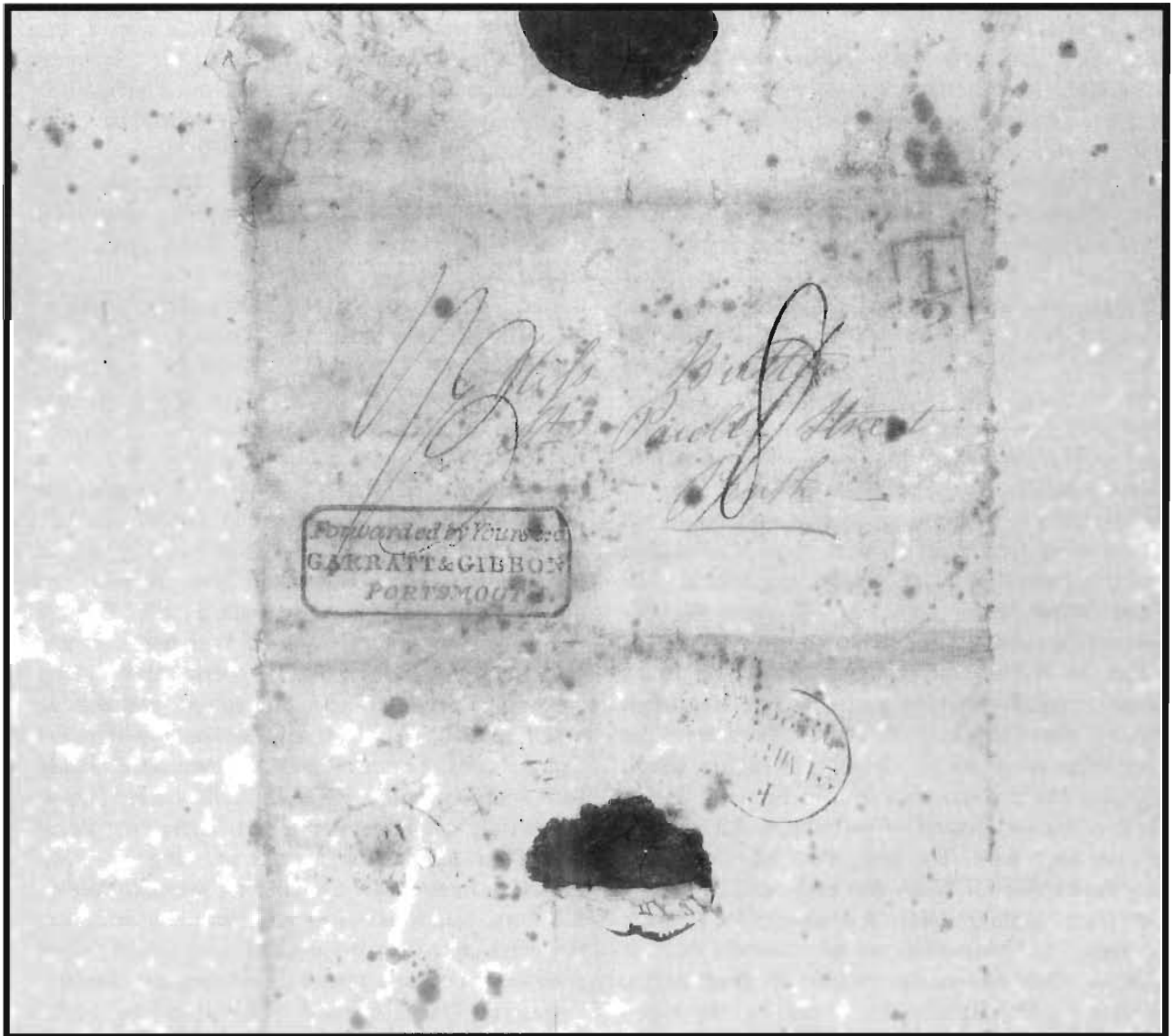


Figure 1 above shows the outside of the letter, which has the same 8d charge and extra 1/2d handstamp as Bob Maddocks' letter, but with a further manuscript charge mark which looks like 1/3d. There is also a Portsmouth arrival date-stamp of 20 MA 1829.

The letter reads

“ Isle of Ascension January 17, 1829
Mountain Station

My dear sister

I received your kind letter of the 3rd May last & feel greatly obliged to you for your attention to my wishes. I am glad to say I owe no person in the world at least as far as I know—but with regard to my own immediate relations the case is different but hope shall have it in my power to repay them in some measure for their kind liberality. I have given in my father's letter, directions about Mrs. McDonalds money and trust you will do the best you can as I do not wish to have my name connected with such an affair. I was sorry to hear of Dr Bell's misfortunes, but times are hard & unless people are careful they will not succeed in any undertaking.

John Bell has left the service you tell me, promotion is uncommonly slow in the Army Medical Department perhaps depending on more interest than he could command, with us also tedious but not in that respect comparable with the other as an Admiral has the power of making a number of Surjeons on every Foreign Station but then his Interest is requisite or some other assistance. I am concerned the Lord High Admiral is out of Office as he seemed anxious to satisfy all ranks and Conditions in the Service without partiality indeed his conduct was similar to that of his Royal Brother the late Duke of York but we have nothing to do with politics nor the changes of Administration.

The weather is fine here at present no Complaints of any consequence but all well, there is no station healthier than this in any part of the World. The Trade Wind blows constantly & cools us, our summer has commenced. Thermometer 8 AM 67, 3 PM 73, 8 PM 66—& lower our winter much lower. Frequent showers and fogs, we live often above the clouds. At the Garrison the Thermometer is 10 or 12 degrees higher which feels hot but not more so than in England during the summer on account of the breeze. All invalids recover here soon. The last twelvemonths wet & very favourable for Water & Vegetation.

Tanks are building rapidly & Barracks for Officers & men, cultivation extended considerably & various other improvements, all tending to the good of the Place, proceeding. I cannot inform you why so little notice is taken of this Island, probably on account of its comparatively small importance but situation in the middle of the Ocean & in the tract of Homeward Bound ships it may be of future advantage to us, particularly if water were in sufficient quantity for vessels touching. Goats, sheep & pigs are plentiful & vegetable in

abundance—indeed there are 50 acres turned up & from the garden near us here, we get English & Sweet Potatoes, turnips, carrots and green peas, exclusive of others, now & then Pine apples, bananas & melons but it is too cold at this elevation for these fruits, we require Woolen Clothing here in general. I have not had rheumatism these twelvemonths, nor any other complaint, however it occurs now & then here but not severe. Sore throat & colds also among the Blacks. Turtle are numerous this season, & ships now & then attempt to take them. 2 were detected the other day, & then boats captained but returned. Thunder is uncommon & lightning rare—heavy rain seldom falls—squally weather often, always a strong tide.

I hope that James has been heard something of. I ask every person touching here about him & his vessel. Please write me soon about him. I would have wrote before but waited for the Transport to no purpose as there was no letter for me. I have not been hitherto able to get a Present for you & being out of the way & every one for themselves but when in England shall either purchase something or allow yourselves to choose. Smith got into a scrape by going after these trifles, he was no great things. The present Surjeon is an excellent fellow, Mr Mitchell but rather deaf, indeed we are all comfortable. A Lieutenant Mr. Barnes and I live here comfortably together, ride down to the Garrison together to dine with the rest.

I must say something about the pirates. We saw a Brig that had plunderd a Ship or Bark ragged, she drifted to Leeward apparently in distress as they had cut her rigging & scuttled & made a hole in her bottom—she ought to have resisted as preferable to submission in such a case. If there had been the smallest Man of War here, what a surprise the villains would experience in being instantly caught. They committed murder & anything bad. We had several boats which the Colonel our Commandant if practicable would have sent to rescue the vessel but they were past & it was only suspicion on our part. These are so well armed that the boats run a risk of being run down or sunk—I never saw a small vessel sail so well as the Brig, she was so well manned & in every respect adapted for the wicked designs she put in practice. The same vessel to appearance chased a large Free Trader & came within Gun Shot of the Batteries mounting 15-16 guns. She saw her danger & immediately sheered off: several vessels have been captured & pillaged by ships & craft of different classes under South American colours— & two have been captured & a few of these vessels were here Spaniards, Portuguese who are ready for any cowardly murder. One brig under the Buenos

Ayres flag, supposed not to be a Private but taken after a smart action with a Tender suppressing the Slave Trade. They will undergo an examination on their arrival home, & be tried perhaps. The last vessel was manned by Englishmen, Americans & Spaniards & was a Privateer. I forgot to mention Sir William Harris was boarded by a Brig when Mrs. Nicholls the Col's lady was aboard, the Chief (per?) in the boat calling himself an officer demanded her papers but was refused, spoke much concerning his force & when a few soldiers appeared & he observed she had Guns, he merely said they were in want of Medicines which the Surgeon got, who was in the boat. They spoke English well & were either American or Englishmen. The Transport owed her safety to her force.

In the latter of last July a large Ship was observed at Sunrise to Leeward beating up to the Island but at great distance. 9 AM she anchored & proved to be His Majesty's frigate *Briton* 46 Guns commanded by Honble Capt Gordon, brother to the Earl of Aberdeen, which has sailed expressly for the purpose of capturing these Pirates but unfortunately did not fall in with them, however she went over to Brazil & may have better luck. My former master in the *Parthian* Mr. Hall's master of the frigate—whom I was glad to see & had the pleasure of his company to Dinner at the Mountain & had a talk about old affairs & went to the Peak & Lava (?) then rode down and dined aboard with Captain Gordon who is a very pleasant gentleman. The *Briton* brought news that Lt. Col. Nicolls was promoted to the rank of Major in the Marine Corps, & superseded in the command here which belonged to a Captain only, & that Captains Bates & Payne were appointed to supersede Col. Nicolls & Capt Langdon here, which took place October last when the *Medina* arrived (20 Guns) commanded by Capt Suckling a relation of the late Admiral Lord Nelson an excellent fellow—fond of shooting & with whom I was very intimate. The *Champion* arrived from India 20 Guns commanded by Capt Delmy a very pleasant man, who also remained at the Mountain some days with his officers. The *Eden* arrived a second time but Capt Harrison had the command Capt Owen being at Fernando Po—whom I mentioned before as being very kind to me & requesting me to volunteer had I been passed, I should have had no objections. The *Vigilant* Ketch was here also, a small vessel. The *Undaunted* Frigate, Capt Clifford brother to the Duke of Devonshire touched here, he was a very civil and mild man, he came up to the Mountain & with General Bourke from the Cape of Good Hope. Capt Rous brother to the Duke of Leinster—a very fine gentleman and Lt. Col. Nicolls went home in

her on the 2 December last. There have been few vessels since. The *Active* Transport arrived a month ago, Lt Pritchard R.N. Agent, by which vessel I shall write to be relieved, & in 9 or 10 months expect to be home if it please God—the disposer of all events.

I was much gratified by the arrival of the *Briton* Honble Capt Gordon. They were all pleasant gentlemen from the Captain downwards. There was another shipmate on board. Mr. Honeyman son of Admiral Honeyman who was with me in the *Parthian* & whose parents the Colonel knew perfectly. Capt Gordon & his officers dined with us at the Mountain, & were very well pleased with the place & Commodore Collier arrived here November last, came to the Mountain but the weather proved unfavourable for inspecting the different works going on—he sailed next day for the coast of Africa. His vessel is the *Sybille* 45 a fine large frigate, he seems an eccentric man, rough in his manners according to report, but on the whole accounts are favourable concerning him—he belongs evidently to the Old School. These are all the Men of War which have touched here since my last, & few Merchantmen.

Capt Langdon's brother came here a fortnight ago in his own ship from Van Diemens Land & New South Wales & states the Colony suffering extremely from the effects of Dry Weather, which caused a scarcity of Corn. Bread is at an exorbitant price, however it is to be hoped only temporary & that better & more favourable seasons will succeed this unproductive one—in other respects all is well. The climate of Van Diemens Land is very fine, that of Sydney, New South Wales much warmer, more so than any part of this Island. There were passengers on board the Attorney General Van Diemens Land a Lieutnt of Kings troops, Surgeon R.N. for Convicts & several others who were all agreeable, they dined & lived ashore & we dined aboard. I believe David Bell is at Sydney, New South Wales. Dr. Cook told me so—hope he is doing well.

You observe that although a forlorn & barren spot, this Island has numerous visitors & those neither of low rank or of little importance. The Mountain is the only part capable of cultivation which is of considerable extent & far more than sufficient for our wants or that of the African Squadron for whose benefit this place is retained. To receive Invalids & Medical Stores, Provisions which keep well in this dry climate which resembles the desert in want of Vegetation. You may walk Miles over our plains without seeing a blade of grass—& if any, of a Poisonous quality, but as you ascend towards the Mountain the Scene changes more & more—the Mountain is formed of Volcanic matter

as light Pumice or Cinders. Near our house the depth of Mould is considerable & Vegetation in abundance where we have a fine view of 50 craters & cones which had at some remote period desolated the Island as you perceive currents of lava in all directions & of various forms—under the Cinders & Pumice, it will be a long time before the place has a tolerable appearance. There are no natural trees & only a few shrubs planted by ourselves but it requires a beginning & constant perseverance to accomplish our wishes. The soil is fertile and capable of being turned to good account. Water is the principal object. A permanent supply will be got in a year or so then everything else will prosper. There are more than 200 Men, Women & Children. Marines 80 & upwards, 2 Capts, 3 Lieutenants 1 Surgeon & myself—as officers—1 Agent Victualler & some others. We heard of the Battle of Navarino & were glad of this result & as the Russians seem inclined to seize on Constantinople, War may be the consequence. As I am going to write a few lines to Elizabeth must conclude by wishing you well in all respects, health & prosperity. Please give my best respects to Dr. Scott Mr. Gellatly and all well wishers.

I remain your Af Brth

Thomas”

THERE ARE THEN A COUPLE OF ADDENDA

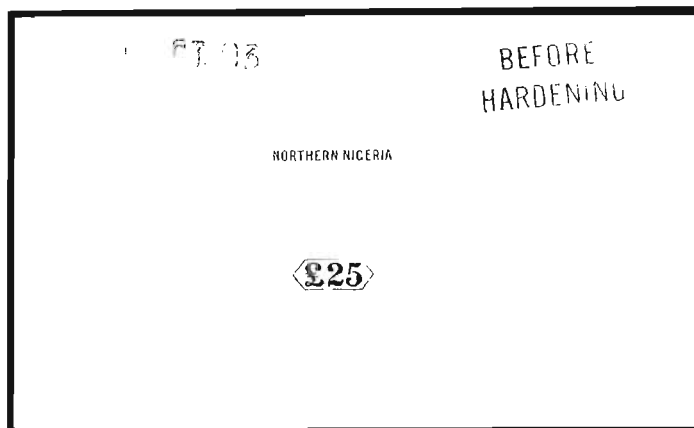
“Dear Elisabeth Ascension Jan 17th 1829
I received your letter of the 3rd May & was happy to observe your improvement in respect - and I am only sorry to say that in writing to Jess I have not the space to allot for your epistle but next time shall take good care to reserve a larger portion to convey my thoughts to you. Many opportunities I cannot expect but then hope to converse not through the medium of writing but face to face. I am not tired of my situation but as it does not further my prospects, must come home. We are all agreeable & happy. Wishing you every happiness. Compln. To you Father & Mother. I am your affect. Brother
Thos Butten”

WRITTEN ACROSS THE MARGINS

“Mrs Nicolls is a very fine lady, she came out and returned vexed no doubt at the situation of affairs. I do not know a finer woman. Kind in the extreme. Col. Nicolls & the officers were at variance so much so that they only dined with him occasionally. I lived at the Mountain with him from March 20 to August 1st & had no reason to dislike him, indeed he was very kind to me & had never a word but once about the Ship Allowance which I tried to convince him belonged to us, he was passionate but very hospitable & kind hearted in my opinion”

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William Wilberforce Cinderella Items

John Knight

Frank Walton's article on a William Wilberforce Cinderella item (Ref 1) prompted me to dig out some other material on the same subject as depicted below at 70% of full size


William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce was born in Hull on August 24, 1759, the third child and only son of Robert Wilberforce, a prosperous Baltic trade merchant. He was named after his grandfather who was Mayor of Hull in 1722 and 1740.


William was educated initially at Hull Grammar School, then after the death of his father, in London and at Pocklington School in East Yorkshire. From there he entered St. John's College, Cambridge to read Classics. There he began an important, lifelong friendship with William Pitt, the Younger, whose Prine Ministerial influence in Parliament helped in the campaign to end slavery.


Wilberforce entered Parliament in 1780 as M.P. for Hull but took over the county constituency of York a few years later. He campaigned energetically on numerous moral issues of the day before emerging as the eloquent leader of the slavery abolitionists. The campaign was long and hard and he had retired from public life before Parliament finally accepted the vital Second Reading of the Abolition of Slavery Bill on July 26, 1833, voting £20 million to end the traffic in the British Empire. Three days later Wilberforce died at the age of 73. He was given a public funeral and buried in Westminster Abbey.


Wilberforce is well remembered in Hull. His birthplace in High Street is now a fine Museum to his memory and was renovated as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1983. The old Hull Grammar School building also is preserved close to the Holy Trinity Church, where he was baptised. A Monument, erected by public subscription occupies a prominent position in the city centre.



William Wilberforce
1759-1833







WILBERFORCE
Slavery abolitionist 1759-1833


J.W. Kytt,
51 Burlescombe Road,
Thorpe Bay,
Essex.
SS1 3QE

Kingston upon Hull City Council Commemorative Cover

3047



Patrick G. Awcock
"Smalhere"
Chelwood Gate
HAYWARDS HEATH
West Sussex RH11 7LX



**150th Anniversary
Celebrations 1983**

WILBERFORCE
Slavery abolitionist 1759-1833

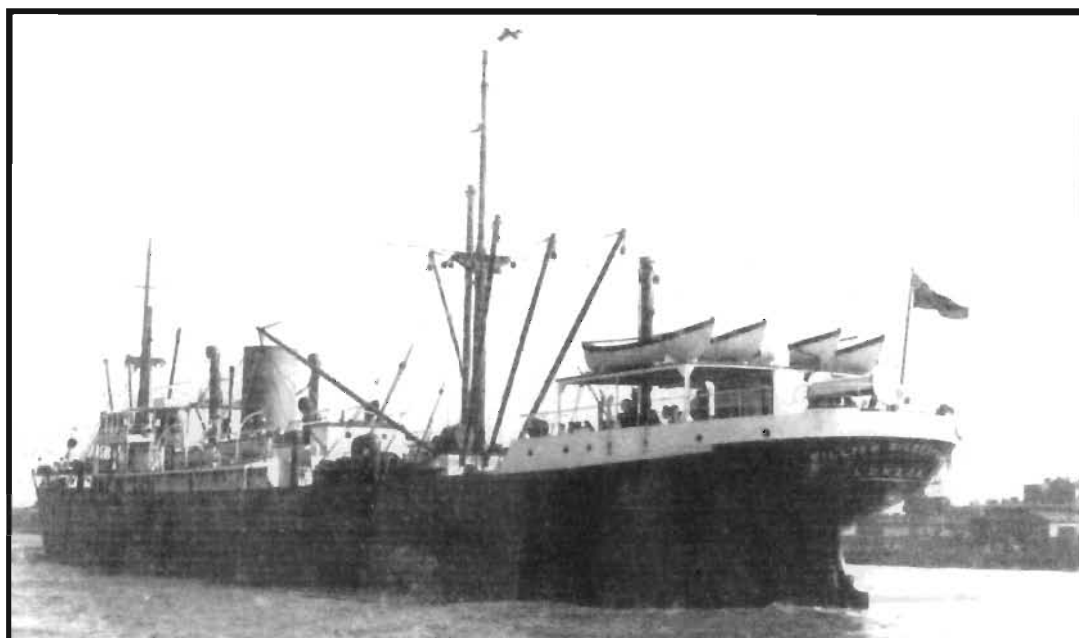
A brief history of the vessel “*William Wilberforce*” may also be of interest. She was a motor vessel of the Explorer class being 5004 grt and built by D&W Henderson & Co Ltd, Glasgow. Sea trials took place on 9th May 1930

Maiden Voyage (Captain W.E. Lloyd)

Hamburg	14 May 1930
Antwerp	28 May
Tenerife	2 June
Madeira	3 June
Las Palmas	5 June
Dakar	8 June
S Leone	11 June
Grand Bassam	17 June
Accra	22 June
Lagos	25-26 June
Burutu	3 July
Opobo	6 July
Creek Ports	11 July
Forcados	15 July
Lagos	19 July
Accra	20 July
S Leone	24 July
Conakry	24 July
Las Palmas	30 July
Aarhus	7-11 August
Hamburg	16 August

Final Voyage (Captain J.W. Andrew)

Liverpool	18 Sept 1942
River Mersey	19-26 Sept
Freetown	6-9 October
Takoradi	14-19 Oct
Accra	20-23 October
Lagos	24 Oct—3 November
Takoradi	4-14 November
Freetown	20-21 November
Bathurst	24-28 November
Freetown	30 Nov—9 December
Takoradi	14 December
Lagos	16 December
Forcados	17-19 December
Lagos	20-26 December
Takoradi	27-31 December
	then lost at sea



On the same day of her departure from Takoradi the German submarine U511 left Lorient under the command of KL. (Kapitanleutnant zur See) Fritz Schneewind with a crew of 36. She joined the Delphin Group on 7th January 1943 to intercept Convoy TMI heading north-eastwards for Gibraltar without success. However she did sink the *William Wilberforce* which was sailing independently at position 29.20N, 26.53W on 9th January at 2042 hrs, being roughly 500 miles west of the Canary Islands (German grid ref DG 9116).

Reference

1. Walton F., “Wilberforce Cinderella Item”, *Cameo*, Volume 9 p105, WASC, October 2005

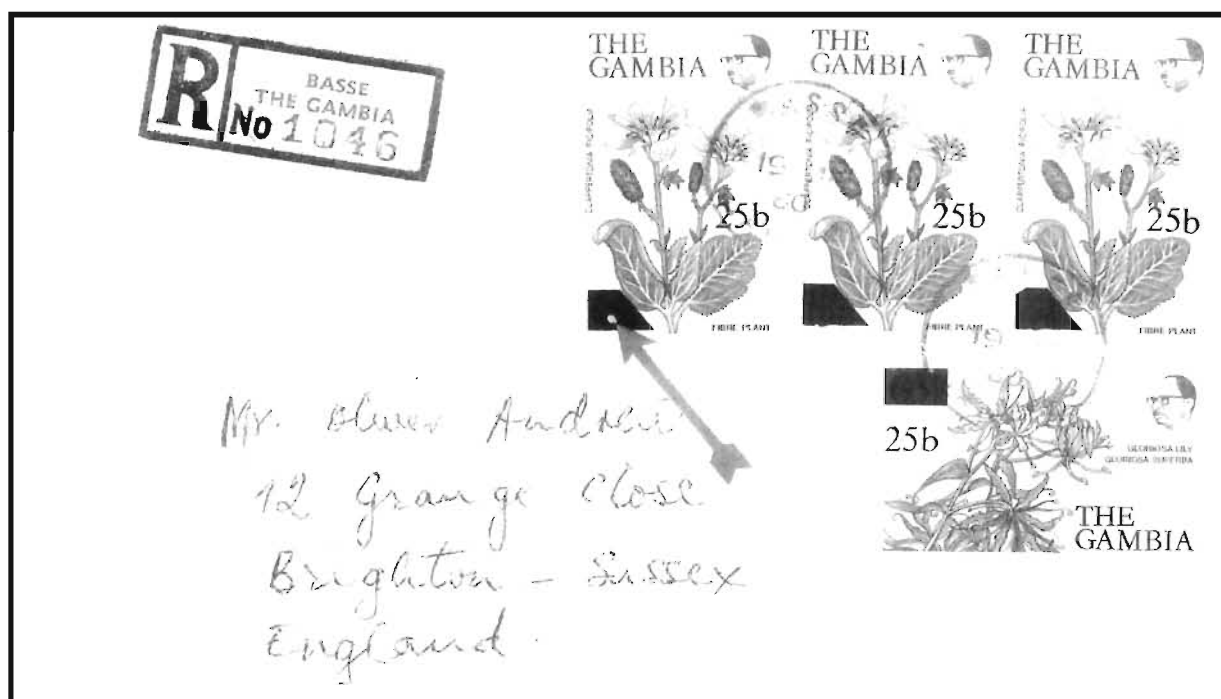
Gambia: the 1979 Overprints

Oliver Andrew

Philip Beale wrote an article for *Cameo* in 1980 about these overprints (*Cameo* Vol 2, p50, July 1980), the greater part of which is here reproduced:

“In 1979 The Gambia had to have three 25 butut value overprints, the first change of rate since the provisionals of 1906. Crown Agents have kindly provided some details. This overprinting became necessary during the tourist season. There was insufficient time to permit a reprint and so stock held by the Crown Agents of other values was overprinted 25b. The work was done in England: the 25b on 13b being released on 5 March 1979, the other two values on 26 March 1979. The Deputy Director of Posts & Telegraphs in The Gambia has kindly written to say that the total issue was about 71,500 stamps. The stamps have not been easy to obtain in any quantity and a major supplier of new issues was unable to supply any complete panes of any of the three stamps”

Since then I have obtained several panes of each value, inspection of which has revealed some details of interest. About half the stamps show a slight difference in the size of the figures “2” and “5”, as though two sizes from the same font had been used randomly. The only flaw in the figures is on row 1 stamp 1 of the 63b, where the left tip of the foot of the “2” is missing. Various small flaws are visible on the overprint itself: in particular a small circular white patch on one or two stamps of each value. It looks as though a punched-out perforation had fallen onto the pane during the overprinting process, as shown in the illustration below



Careful measurement, though, shows this not to be the case. It is semi-constant and can be seen “filled in” on later printings. There are other scratches and dots which are also semi-constant. Two constant flaws are : 13b row 4 stamp 8 has the top left corner of the overprint missing (also see illustration) and 63b row 5 stamp 5 has the base of the overprint indented.

The overprinting has been done over panes of 25 stamps (5x5) on the 1D25 and 67b values and over the whole sheet of 50 (5x10) of the 13b value

So was the overprinting necessary? Not for the first time in the 1970s, The Gambia PO found itself faced with difficulties in matching the face value of stamps in stock or on order with their postage rates. In 1979, 25b was the rate for seairail to the UK (though this was virtually non-existent by then), for the express fee, and for the airmail rate for postcards to the UK. No doubt it was this last use that was the main reason.

Despite their low catalogue value, these stamps have become, if anything, harder to find over the last 25 years, and they are seldom seen on cover.

Another new Nigerian forgery

Rudolf Lazar

I enclose an illustration of two copies of a new forgery with the genuine stamp for comparison. The design is the 1996 N30 value commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of the Mass Literacy Commission. These are not photocopies of the original stamps, but what I consider as offset prints. Looking at the details show several aberrations, including quite clearly the back of the book wrapper and certainly the perforation. While the original stamps do not show a reaction to the UV lamp, the forgeries are printed on paper that shows a light white fluorescence. The forgeries are from off-paper kiloware so I can tell nothing more about the source.



genuine

forgeries

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ASCENSION. 1922 3/- Badge with <i>broken mainmast</i> . Very fine mint. SG 20a	£275	NIGER COAST. 1893 1/- on 2d (Type 11B in vermilion). Very fine used on piece. Rare. BPA Cert.	£2250
ASCENSION. 1953 1½d with <i>cut mast and railings</i> (R.3/1). Unmounted mint. CW 17ce.	£75	NIGERIA. 1932 £1 corner Plate '23' block of four The Die I reversion. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 12a.	£975
GAMBIA. 1912 5d Keyplate with <i>split 'A'</i> . Very fine mint. SG 93a.	£120	S. NIGERIA. 1907 DLR Die Proof for 3d frame endorsed 'BEFORE HARDENING' and dated '15 APR.07'.	£300
GAMBIA. 1912 1/- Keyplate with <i>split 'A'</i> . Very fine mint. SG 97b.	£130	ST HELENA. 1871 1d lake <i>surcharge in blue-black</i> . Fine mint (part o.g.). Scarce. Brandon Cert. SG 8a	£225
GOLD COAST. 1922 1d and 5d optd 'SPECIMEN' (Type D9). Very fine mint. Rare (see Samuel P.41/42). SG 87,90sp.	£175	ST HELENA. 1871 1/- deep green (Type C). Very fine mint. Exceptional example. SG 19.	£350
LAGOS. 1887 5/- with manuscript 'Specimen' (Type DMS). Very fine mint. Rare (ex DLR archives). SG 40sp.	£250	SIERRA LEONE. 1873 1/- green (Perf 12½) Very fine mint. Exceptional example. SG 15	£350
NIGER COAST. 1893 ½d on 2½d (Type 8) showing 'Pe' of 'Penny' <i>virtually omitted</i> . Very fine mint. SG 25.	£350	TOGO. 1915 20/- marginal Plate copy showing the <i>small 'F' in 'FRENCH'</i> . Very fine mint. SG H46a.	£275

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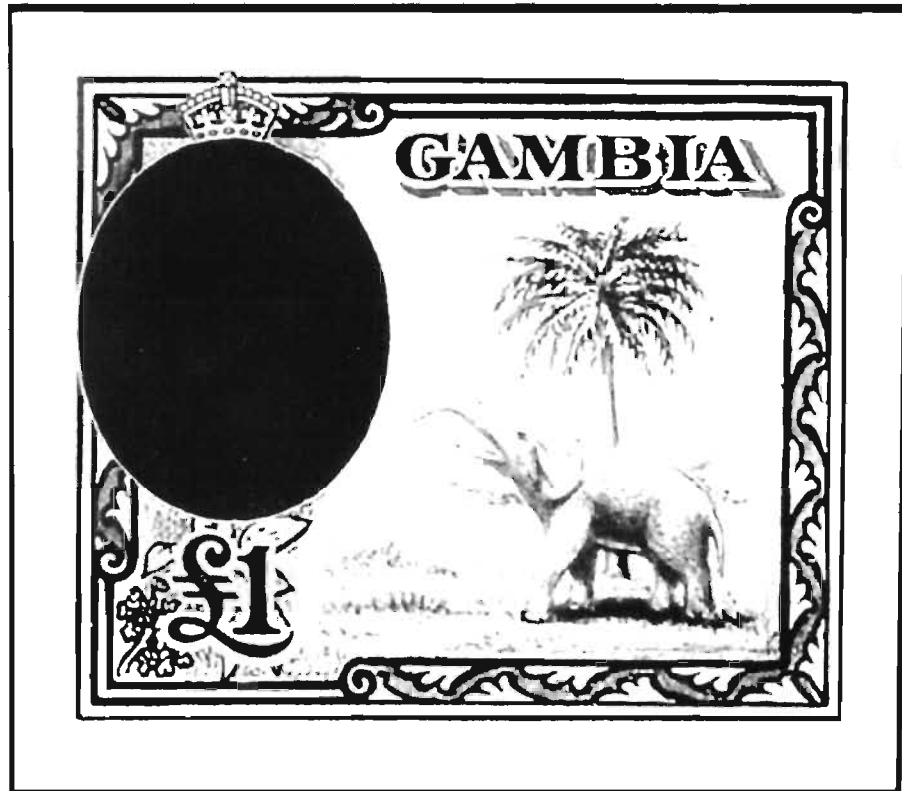
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