

# C A M E O



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

Editor:

J.J. Martin  
22 Constable Way,  
West Harnham,  
Salisbury,  
Wilts. SP2 8LN

Hon. Secretary:

P.O. Beale  
10 Cornfield Road,  
Seaford,  
Sussex BN25 1SW

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EDITORIAL

First, an apology. No last date for receipt of bids for the 'auction' was given. This was a complete oversight and I hope members were not too inconvenienced.

In future, the Postal Bid Sale list will be sent out as a separate list and not attached to CAMEO. It seemed to your Editor that it was not logical to number the pages of these lists, especially if an index is compiled in the future.

The photograph of the Freetown P.O. did not reproduce very clearly although the proof copy was satisfactory. Therefore, a copy of the postcard of the Lagos P.O. has not been included in this issue.

Mr. Horsley has shown me a picture postcard, postmarked February 1901, which clearly shows a pillar box in the Krootown Road, Freetown.

With regard to the St. Helena stamp, with 'C.W. ANTHONY' in the margin, shown in CAMEO 6, Mr. Martin-Peacock has suggested that this could be a dealer's security mark.

Mr. Beale has pointed out a correction to the notes on The De La Rue Archives. On page 122 of CAMEO 6 in the entry headed 'Page 11' Appendix C not D was preferred.

On holiday last summer in the east of France and Paris, I took the opportunity to search for West African postal history. The only item I discovered was a postcard of Kuntur-Ur franked with an Edward VII  $\frac{1}{2}$ d cancelled at Bathurst in 1912. This cost 5 francs. I came across several Levant postmarks on postcards at reasonable prices and a dealer charged me 25 francs for an 1831 Thurn and Taxis cover, with border markings, which also had disinfection slits.

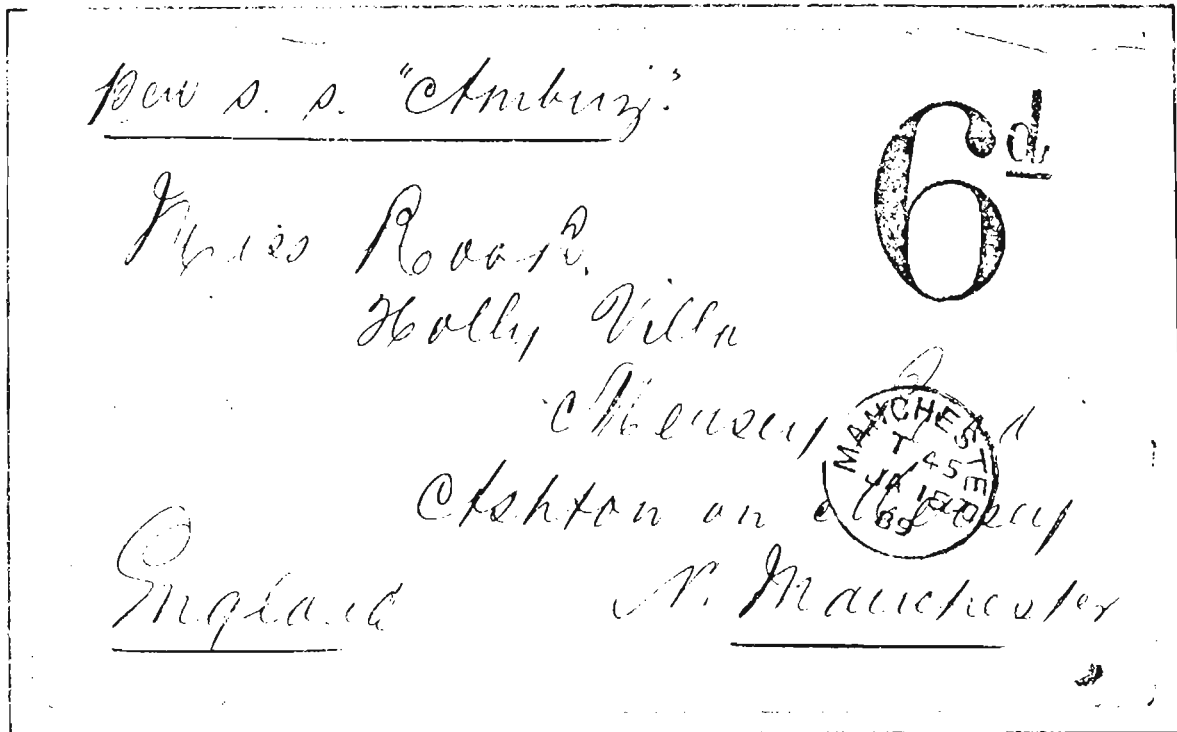
I am investigating dates of release of various Togo issues. If members have earlier dates than those shown below, I would be most grateful if they would get in touch with me

1914	Wide setting with value added (S.G. 12-13)	2 OCT 14
1914	Narrow setting (S.G. 14-26)	7 OCT 14
1914	Narrow setting with value added (S.G. 27-28)	4 OCT 14
1915	May Local Overprints	19 MAY 15
1916	April London Overprints	?

A recent meeting with Mr. R.I. Johnson, Secretary of The Society of Postal Historians, resulted in a sight of some interesting covers to and from West Africa. Two are illustrated in this issue. Mr. Johnson would welcome ideas on Unpaid covers.

UNPAID MAIL FROM WEST AFRICA

R. I. JOHNSON



No indication of origin but probably from either Madeira or the West Coast of Africa (Niger Coast). Prepayment optional?

Liverpool Br. Packet c. d. s. on reverse in black.

Liverpool January 1889.

'PS' AND 'LB' LIVERPOOL DATESTAMPSJ. WHITFIELD

Some months ago I read, and became interested in, the contents of an article which had appeared under the above named heading in 'POSTAL HISTORY', the Bulletin of the Postal History Society (No. 190 June - August 1975 refers). This is now reproduced in CAMEO by kind permission of the Editor of 'POSTAL HISTORY'.

"In the January issue of 'Postal History' an envelope was shown on the front cover bearing an example of the PAID/LIVERPOOL/PS PACKET datestamp and an explanatory note on page 17 suggested that the other markings on the envelope went a long way to prove that the letters 'PS' were the initials of Pacific Steam (Navigation Company). Confirmation has now been received from the Pacific Steam Navigation Company that from 1868 there was a packet service from Callao (Peru) via Valparaiso, the Straits of Magellan, the east coast South American ports, Lisbon and the Spanish ports to Liverpool.

The use and purpose of the 'PS' Packet datestamp has puzzled collectors since their discovery so it is with interest that information supplied by readers on this subject can be published.

R.V. Gleave of Newcastle-upon-Tyne writes to say that he has been checking all the dates of the 'PS' Packet datestamps with the arrival of ships at Liverpool and in every case he has recorded it coincides with the arrival of a Pacific Steam Navigation Company vessel and also confirms that the existence of examples from the eastern coast of South America can be explained by the fact that, on their return voyage, the ships called at Punta Arenas, Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Gleave has submitted the illustration of a letter from Valparaiso which shows an example of the PAID/LIVERPOOL/PS PACKET datestamp which is different to that shown previously.

Francis Granville has reported that he has two examples (1874 and 1875) of the 'unpaid' form of this datestamp and both bear a handstruck '1/-' rate marking. It can be mentioned that the packet rate for letters to the United Kingdom via Panama was 1/6d at this time so the purpose of the 'PS' Packet datestamp could have been to indicate that the lower rate was appropriate.

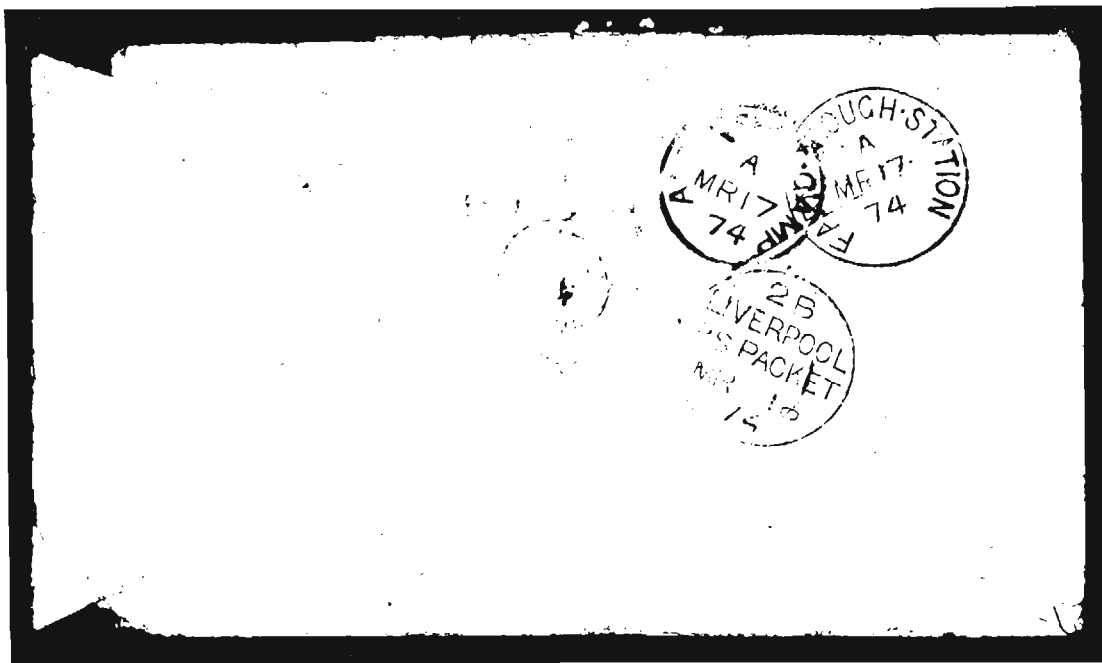
C. Angus Parker has written to say that he has seen a stampless cover from the west coast of Africa bearing a PS/PACKET datestamp. Although the known route of the Pacific Steamers did not touch the West African ports it is possible that this letter was transhipped from a foreign packet boat at one of the European ports.

Charles Hahn writing from America states that he has a PS/PACKET datestamp on a cover dated 5th January, 1876 from Valparaiso to Dublin. Mr. Hahn's letter bears a manuscript 'Aconcagua S.S.' and a shilling adhesive stamp which, as we have seen from the evidence of the previous covers, was appropriate for the Straits of Magellan route.

The most important discovery revealed from the correspondence has been a report by A.R. Clark of the existence of a PAID/LIVERPOOL/LB PACKET datestamp. A LB/PACKET datestamp is shown in the proof impression books dated 6th January, 1874 but hitherto this has been its only record. On the slender evidence of one cover it is not possible to offer firm evidence of use and purpose but it can be suggested that the letters 'LB' are an abbreviation of Lisbon or Lisbon Branch. It would be interesting to know if there is any link between the 'PS' and 'LB' Packet datestamps because Lisbon was a port of call for the Pacific Steamers. Does the date shown in the LB packet datestamp correspond with a known date of landing of mail from a Pacific Steam packet at Liverpool?"

What aroused my interest was the observation by Angus Parker that he had seen a stampless cover from West Africa bearing a LIVERPOOL/PS PACKET datestamp, as indeed he had, he having sold this particular cover to me many years ago.

It is an Ashanti War cover dated FE/16/74 with a LIVERPOOL/PS PACKET arrival date of MR/16/74. A further search, after reading the article, revealed another Ashanti War cover in my Gold Coast collection bearing the PS PACKET datestamp of JA/21/74. Also, I note that John Sacher exhibited a PS PACKET cover in his display that he gave of B.W.A. postal history material at the Circle A.G.M. on October 8th, 1977.



This, too, is dated around the same period which makes three of these PS PACKET covers from West Africa that are known to me, all from the Gold Coast, and sent to the U.K. during the period of the Wolseley Expedition. Is this just a coincidence - just an odd batch of mail which got transferred to a Pacific Steam Navigation Company Packet somewhere en route to the U.K. perhaps at Lisbon or Madeira, or were these P.S.N. Coy. Steamers crossing over from the east coast of South America to the African West Coast, possibly to Lagos, then along the coast and up to Sierra Leone, thence to the U.K., as it is known, is it not, that mail did get to South America from West Africa in those days!

Will members please check their B.W.A. covers to see if they do happen to have any LIVERPOOL/PS PACKET strikes either PAID or UNPAID and, if they have, note particularly the date of the 'PS' datestamp. If further items are found covering a wider time period than January/February 1874, and if covers are found bearing this datestamp from places in West Africa other than the Gold Coast, then maybe these P.S.N. Packets did come across from South America on their homeward run - an interesting thought!

As to the LB PACKET datestamp, I have no covers with this mark and know nothing about it other than what appears in the article, so any information regarding one or both of these PS and LB date-stamps will be most gratefully received by me.

ASCENSION 1849-52

By kind permission of Mr. J.A.G. Broadhead of East of England Philatelic Auctions, Peterborough, England, we are able to reproduce details of a find of covers offered for sale on March 26th, 1977.

The correspondence related to Lt. J. Townsend of Bath, stationed on board H.M.S. Pantaloon and H.M.S. Tortoise, carried by various vessels of the West African Command.

ENVELOPES FROM ASCENSION 1849-52

- LOT 73 - APRIL 1849. Envelope to Bath bearing "NAVY POST OFFICE" in black endorsed April 27th from Ascension, received Portsmouth June 20th. Rated 4d.
- 76 - OCTOBER 1849. Envelope to Bath with London and Bath receipt 30th November, endorsed "Per Adventurer". Dated Ascension Oct 19th 1849. Rated 2/-.
- 79 - SEPTEMBER 1851. Envelope to Bath. Endorsed "Dated Sept. 4th 1851 received 18th Oct." An attractively struck "PACKET LETTER" in black.
- 80 - MARCH 1852. Envelope to Bath. The reverse struck with straight line "SHIP LETTER" in red. Rated 1/4d.

ENVELOPES AND ENTIRES TO ASCENSION 1848-51

- 81 - AUGUST 1848. Entire to Lieut. Townsend on H.M.S. Pantaloon "By first ship". Dated London 16th August 1848. Charged "8d".
- 91 - JULY 11th 1851. Envelope to H.M.S. Tortoise from Bath. Endorsed "By the Sir Robert Peel, the Mails to the Cape to be made upon eveg. 14th July". Rated 1/-.
- 92 - AUGUST 13th 1851. Envelope from Bath to H.M.S. Tortoise endorsed "By the mail for the Cape of Good Hope and Sierra Leone, made up in London 14th August". London 'PAID' 14th August. Rated 1/-.

LOT 91



LOT 92

NOTE: E.H. Ford in "The History and Postage Stamps of Ascension Island" states that "H.M.S. Tortoise (storeship) was commissioned at Chatham in 1844 and was permanently stationed at the island, where her Captain was Governor."

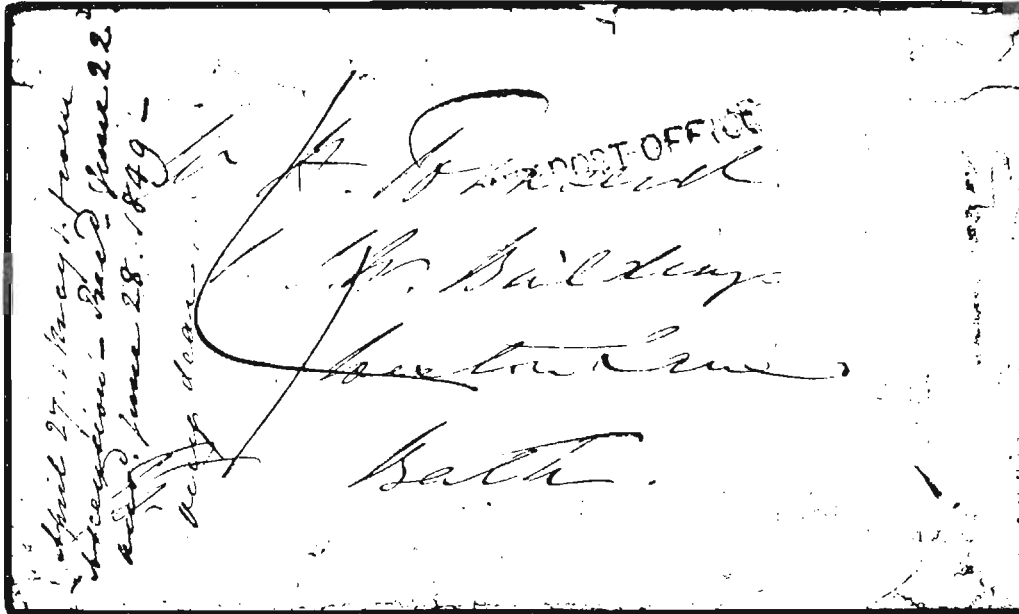
One of our members obtained two of the covers from this auction and has submitted the following notes and queries.

EARLY ASCENSION MAIL

G.E. MONTROSE

This particular correspondence was evidently unknown to either Mr. John Leonard or Mr. Eric Ford, authors of the only philatelic books on Ascension (that I am aware of). Mr. Leonard does mention a letter from a Michael Walling, surgeon on H.M.S. Tortoise, a warship prominently mentioned in this correspondence.

At any rate, I was fortunate enough to acquire two of the covers offered, one of which (lot 73) I submit herewith for the pleasure of those interested, and for my own enlightenment.



The relevant data on this cover is as follows:  
 Straight line, black "NAVY POST OFFICE"; black manuscript "4" rate.  
 Endorsed "April 27 from Ascension - Rec'd June 22 - ans. June 28 1849".  
 Backstamped, blue "PORTSMOUTH JU 20 1849" and red (London) crown "BJ 21 JU 21 1849" and black, double circle "BATH JU 21 1849 C".

Here is some of the data I have accumulated in trying to decipher the meaning of this (and my other "PACKET LETTER") cover.

Speaking of postal service by contract, Mr. A.D. Smith stated, inter alia: "the control of the Post Office packet services and of contracts for the conveyance of mails by sea was in 1837 transferred from the Post Office to the Admiralty. The control was in 1860 re-transferred to the Post Office"

I originally interpreted this as meaning that the Admiralty took over the service itself, and further interpreted that the "NAVY POST OFFICE" strike was applied either at Ascension or on board a warship. However, Mr. R. Lowe states "in the eighteenth century it was not usual for letters to be carried by warships" (underlining provided).

Mr. Lowe further shows the port of arrival for a number of these warships to be Portsmouth. It now appears that "NAVY POST OFFICE" was applied, upon arrival, at Portsmouth.

Question: of the eight letters in this correspondence addressed to Bath, only one bore "NAVY POST OFFICE"; only one bore "PACKET LETTER" and only one was struck with 'SHIP LETTER' - on the reverse. The five other letters all bore manuscript data only, two of which mentioned specific warships. Why didn't they all bear "NAVY POST OFFICE" since, apparently, only two of the eight went by other than naval ship?

All of the letters to Bath bore a manuscript rating, some of which appear to be 2/-, some 1/-; only this cover bears a '4'. Any help on this rating would be appreciated.

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GAMBIA: STAMPS DESTROYED

J.O. ANDREW

At a recent meeting of the B.W.A.S.C. I mentioned that I had figures of stamps destroyed by the Gambian P.O. in 1909. I am hoping to do more research on these and similar figures in the P.R.O. records. I found them in the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, 1909, page 268, where it was said that before a committee, on 30th September, 1909, there were burnt:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d	38,372	4d	3,753	1/-	11,773
1d	21,873	5d	6,643	1/6	8,456
2d	14,839	6d	2,787	2/-	6,896
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	9,853	$7\frac{1}{2}$ d	7,838	2/6	4,344
3d	13,234	10d	8,400	3/-	4,241

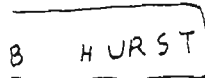
These figures throw some light not only on the numbers of various values with the "Glover" flaw but also on the Gambian P.O. ordering system: the 10d burnt was the number in the last order (14 Dec 05). No mention was made of whether the stamps burnt were CA or MCA issue (or indeed others too).

Questions raised are: when was the exact date of the 1909 issue? Dalwick gives the De La Rue figures for the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d delivered 17 Jy 09 and 22 Feb 10. This must be an entirely new issue if all the old ones were burnt. Is it distinguishable?

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BATHURST AND FATTOTOJ.O. ANDREW

I have two notes that may be of interest for CAMEO. I've two stamps of the Gambia, the 1912 - 22 1d and 4d, showing different parts of what appears to be a straight-line, framed black cancellation: BATHURST.



B HURST

Both show, in addition, registered strikes, one of which is dated 4. Jy. 17. Neither Mr. Beale nor Mr. McCaig can throw any light on it. Can other members?

Also, with reference to Mr. Howe's note in CAMEO 4, I have a FAT(TOTO) cancellation of 1932 in which the figures for the year are the very small type. The month, unfortunately, is off the stamp.

I hope these will be of interest.

NIGER COAST SURCHARGESJ. WILSON

The Editor suggested that a postcard in my possession would be of interest to members.

The card itself is the normal penny G.B. overprinted "Oil Rivers" and has the red "Liverpool Packet" arrival cachet. Details are as follows:-

Addressee: H.A. Slade, Esq.,  
Tudor House,  
St. Albans.

Message (grammar is as per card)

P.O. Old Calabar      July 5th 1894

Dr. Sir,

Yours recd. no surcharges on hand, has converted Postal Order to cash and will keep to see if any takes place within a month - at which time the order shall have due attention. I did those Mr. W. got for you and remember your address full well.

With kind regards,

Yours respectfully

A.W. Dion (or Down - signature is difficult to decipher).

### 1925 SURVEY FLIGHT FROM CAIRO TO KANO, NIGERIA W. OSBORNE

Following an article in "Flight" Magazine on January 22nd, 1925, which published a detailed account of the French and Belgian plans to explore possible air routes in West Africa, the author of the article asked "What were Great Britain's plans, if any?" The outcome of this article was a statement by the Under Secretary of State for Air announcing on March 12th, 1925, that flights would be made both to South Africa and to Nigeria later that year.

Six months later came the announcement that the Air Ministry had made arrangements for a flight of three D.H. 9 A's of No. 47 Squadron at R.A.F. Station, Helwan, Egypt to make an aerial survey from Cairo to Kano for the purpose of gaining experience of long distance flying over tropical country etc. The organisation for this flight was undertaken by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Oliver Swann, K.C.B., C.B.E., the Air Officer Commanding Middle East. Squadron Leader A. Coningham, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., would be in command of the flight. The other two pilots were Flt/Lt. H.V. Rowley (later Air Commodore) and Flt/Lt. H.W. Baggs.

A ground survey had been carried out by Flt./Lt. Greenlaw who travelled over the route by camel and bullock. Landing strips were made at pre-arranged sites by the local inhabitants, under supervision, for landing and refuelling. The necessary fuel was left at these sites. The task took several months to complete. These sites were at Aswan in Egypt; Khartoum, El Obeid and El Fasha in the Sudan; and at Abeche and Fort Lamy in French Equatorial Africa (by courtesy and assistance of the French Authorities), and at Maiduguri and Kano in Nigeria.

The flight commenced on 27th October, 1925 and ended at Kano on 3rd November. It returned to Cairo, leaving Kano on November 12th and landing at Helwan on November 19th. Two extra stops were made on the return flight to enable the crews to get more rest.

The mileage covered was 3,134 in each direction and the average flying speed was 78 m. p. h.

A few official and private letters were carried and these had to be stamped and cancelled at Kano on arrival on November 3rd. These letters were also initialled "A.C." by S/Ldr. A. Coningham. Some more mail was flown from Kano to Cairo and this was dated 11th November, the day before take-off. From Cairo these letters were forwarded to London for delivery by the G.P.O.

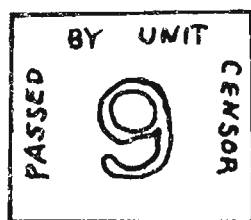
Sources "The Time Shrinkers" ..... David Jones  
 "Pioneers of the W.A. Air Route" ..... Air Commodore  
 H.V. Rowley  
 "Official report of the Flight to Kano" .... S/Ldr. A. Coningham

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## NIGERIA: CENSOR MARKINGS OF WORLD WAR II     D. VAN REKEN

In the July 1976 issue of CAMEO there was a report on Nigerian censorship and markings from WW II. Many members of the B.W.A.S.C. responded with facts about other marks and dates and so this update of several items may be useful.

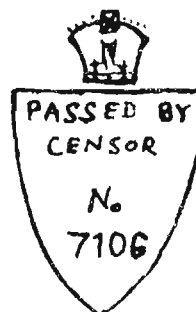
First, I must report on several new markings, all of which seem to be military. The first is a square and the following numbers, all in violet, have been noted: 9, 12, 14. The second and third marks were sent by David A. Woods who sent some very nice tracings. The shield, in violet, appears on an FPO 46 cover and the triangle, also in violet, appears on an FPO 560 cover.



ARMY



A 9



A 6

Second, in reference to civilian censorship, Bishop Patterson writes a note to confirm my premise in paragraph 4 page 79 that censoring was done at various places. He lived in Port Harcourt and his neighbour was one of the local censors.

The hexagonal marking on page 80 should have the following additions:

No. 10	violet	July 1942	on cover from USA
11	red	1941	on cover Douala-Lagos-London
12	black	12Ap41	Minna to U.K.
	violet	Ekd 13Au41	
	red	Lkd 19Ja42	
14	violet	Lkd 7No42	
16	violet	6De40	Warri to USA; Lagos b/s
21	violet	Ekd 13Mr40	
	red	Lkd 25Ap41	
23	violet	Ekd 6De40	
24	violet	30Mr41	Ovim; b/s Enugu
27	black	Ekd 14Mr41	

The horizontal rectangle with PP/12 on page 81 must have the following additions:

PP/10	black	12Mr45	Lagos - N. Y.
PP/15	?	26Ja45	Lagos - USA
?/21	?	7Ju45	Ibadan - Ireland

The eight sided figure on page 81 needs the following additions:

PP/10	black	28Fe44	
PP/12	?	29Fe44	
	black	1De44	Lagos - London
PP/14	red	27My43	
	violet	27Au43 - 15Se43	
	violet	23Sp43 - 4Ju44 (incomplete design)	
PP/15	violet	28Ju43	
PP/18	?	28Mr44 (incomplete design)	Ilorin - Jamaica
PP/21	red	15De44	Nguru to U.K.
PP/22	black	23De42	Lagos
PP/23	?	Ekd 11Se43	Uyo - USA
PP/25	?	13Ap43	Abak - USA

The small triangles listed on page 82 appear without a number but the following additional numbers were reported.

L 2	red-violet	13No41	
L 3	red	24Ju41	
	violet	Fe42	
L 5	violet	24Ju42	
	red-violet	13De41	on first flight cover
L 7	red	19Ja42	Lagos - U.K. airmail

There are reports of other numbers on the cellophane tapes and on the paper label tapes listed on pages 83-84. Perhaps a thorough study of these would be warranted at some time. I note, for example, that the dates of the paper labels all precede those of the cellophane labels. Similarly the Nigeria No. /OPENED BY / EXAMINER items all predate the P.C. 90 labels. No. 28 dated 30Mr41 must be added to the list on page 84. Two different examples of P.C. 90 labels as well as a military seal made from a stencil are illustrated.

Thanks are due to the following who responded with information:  
David A. Woods, R.B. Sanderson, Peter G. Humphreys, C.J. Patterson,  
Dann Mayo, C. Disbrey.

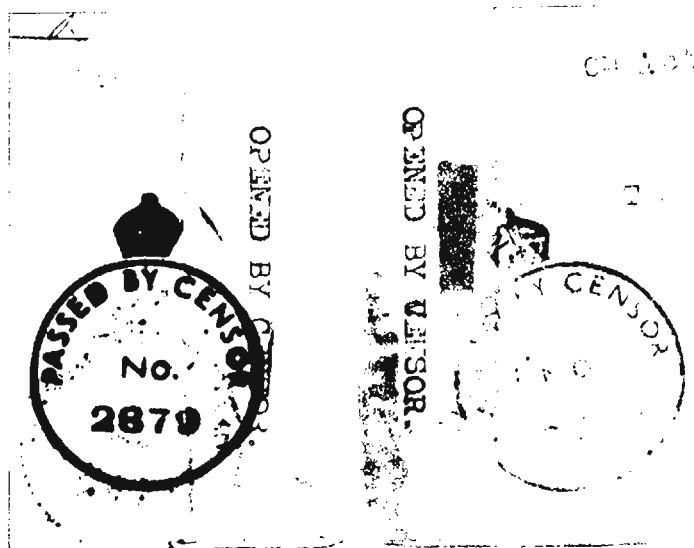
P.C. 90

**OPENED BY EXAMINER**



P.C. 90

**OPENED BY  
EXAMINER 5273**



N.B. The censor cachets marked A 9 and A 6 are Army devices and the classification is that adopted by the Forces Postal History Society.  
 Editor.

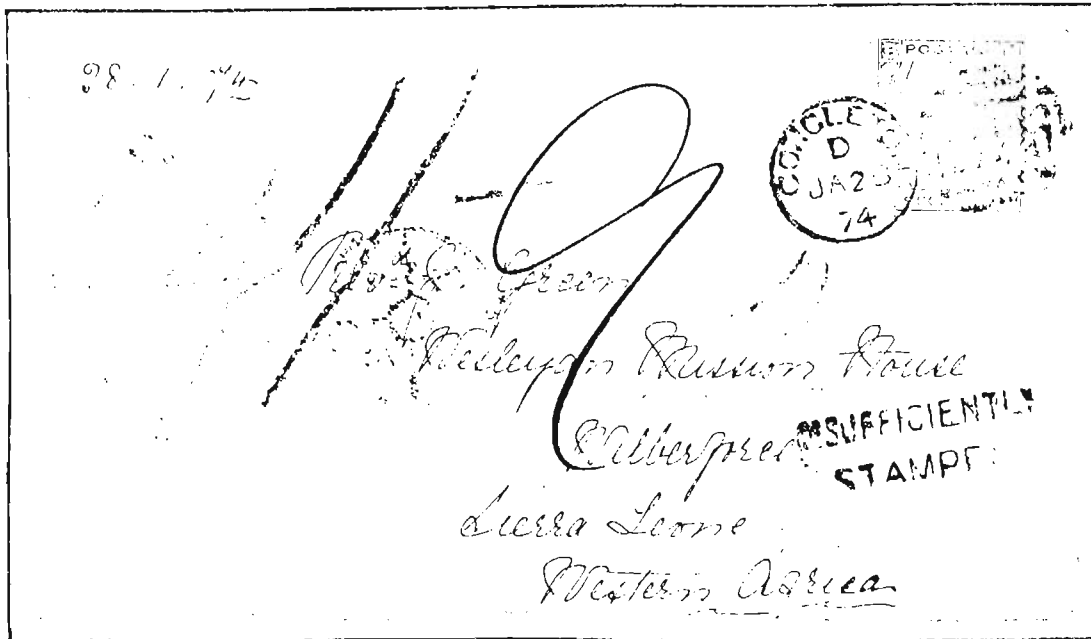
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THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM ARCHIVES

P.O. BEALE

OIL RIVERS. The Museum holds the imprimatur sheets of the British Protectorate Oil Rivers overprints dated 13th May 1892. The sheets are of 10 x 12 though in the case of the 5d value there is only half a sheet. The 1/- sheet must have been folded as the two sides are of noticeably different shades. In each case three stamps have been removed and signed for by W. Rose 13.5.92. There is a distinct variety on stamp 114 of the 2d value, the I of RIVERS being replaced by two dots resembling a colon. No information is given about the issue.

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UNDERPAID MAIL TO SIERRA LEONER. I. JOHNSON

To Sierra Leone. 6d for each half ounce rate in force 1855 to 1879.

Accountancy marks: 1 in red deleted; 2 in red; 9 in black;  
1/- in blue.

Explanation: probably a letter  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 ounce on which the correct postage was 1/-. 6d rate split 5d to Britain and 1d to colony; therefore 2d due to colony on 1/- rate.

Separately Britain would take credit for the deficient postage and a half share of the fine of 6d that is a total of 9d. To this 9d the colony would add its half share of the fine giving a total due from the addressee of 1/-.

INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED applied in London.

January 1874.

SIERRA LEONE PRE-CANCELSH. MACMILLAN

Low denomination stamps of the 1884 issue of Sierra Leone are known overprinted in black in bold type with place names. This appears to be a form of pre-cancel and it has been suggested that it was done by one of the trading companies to prevent pilfering of stamps. I have examples of SHERBRO MANOH SALIDJAH and ROTOMBO. All used copies which I have seen are cancelled B 31. I believe Nissen had examples on cover but as older members will recall he was reluctant to show some items and even more reluctant to discuss selling them.

Can anyone throw further light on these interesting items?

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"MILITARY OPERATIONS TOGOLAND AND THE CAMEROONS  
1914-1916"

Your Editor recently obtained a copy of this book from the Public Library. Written by Brig. General F.J. Moberly, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., it was published in 1931 by H.M.S.O.

As the title suggests, the book covers the conflicts in Togo and the Cameroons in great detail and members interested in these areas might find this of interest.

There is one item of postal interest. In the Togo section, it is mentioned that "In the meantime, late on the 2nd August (1914), order from London to establish censorship had been received at Accra and immediately given effect to....."

THE DE LA RUE ARCHIVESP.O. BEALETOGOLAND April 1916

"A set of Gold Coast stamps shipped in April 1916 to cover the Anglo-French occupation of this former German colony occupied in World War I. The 120 set overprint plate was subsequently sent to the Colony on 10th March 1921." The set overprinted Specimen is shown each stamp adhering to a piece of paper. The overprint measures for "Occupation" 15.02 mm.

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