

# CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



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Telephone: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 9737

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**West Africa Study Circle  
President : Ian Anderson**

**Joint CAMEO Editors**

Barry Burns  
20 Tanton Rd., Stokesley  
MIDDLESBROUGH TS9 5HP  
☎ 01642 710636  
barry.burns1@virgin.net

Robert May  
Longdown Farm Cottage, Cadsden  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH  
HP27 0NF, UK  
☎ 01844 344336  
robmay@freenet.co.uk

**Hon. Secretary**

John Powell, "Middle Path"  
23 Brook Street, Edlesborough  
DUNSTABLE LU6 2JG  
☎ 01525 220196

**Hon. Treasurer**

Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Rd.,  
EDINBURGH EH12 7SR  
☎ 0131 334 7866  
ghanastampman@aol.com

**Hon. Membership Secretary**

Peter Duggan, 75 Alexandra Rd,  
READING RG1 5PS  
☎ 0118 966 3220

**Hon. Auctioneer**

John Smith, 52 Eastway  
GREASBY, Wirral CH49 2NT  
☎ 01516 786201  
stamps.johnsmith@btinternet.com

**Hon. Advertising Manager**

Peter Rolfe, "Merok",  
28 Ashford Road, BEARSTED  
Kent, ME14 4LP  
☎ 01622 737476

**Hon. Librarian**

Oliver Andrew, 52 Valley Drive  
BRIGHTON, W. Sussex  
BN1 5FA  
☎ 01273 564908

**North American Representative**

Peter Newroth, Suite 603  
5332 Sayward Hill Crescent  
VICTORIA BC, V8Y 3H8, Canada  
pnnew@shaw.ca  
☎ (250) 658 3998

**Webmaster**

Ray Harris  
harris6@which.net

**Web Site:** <http://www.wasc.org.uk>

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# Editorial

My aim was to have this edition in your hands before our 11th weekend conference at Edinburgh beginning on 5 October. However, a slow running computer and a couple of tardy advertisers have combined to make this increasingly unlikely. Please accept my apologies if this is the case. I am very much looking forward to my second conference, and urge any erring members to give it a try in future - you won't be disappointed.

I notice that Stanley Gibbons have now extended the scope of their *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps* catalogue (the old 'Part 1') and increase coverage from 1952 to 1970. For me, this is a welcome decision as I still collect the KGVI and early QEII period. Will this create renewed interest in these 'not so modern' issues? Time will tell. Although SG catalogues tend to be the 'Bible' for us here in the UK, I advise you to read Michael Round's detailed review of the Michel *Westafrika* catalogue on page 127; it may persuade you to try it!

Although there is a bias towards Camerouns in this issue, it is not a planned editorial decision. Rob and I have received more articles of here than other countries. Similarly, many contributors are concentrating on quite modern material - does this mean there is little left to write on, say, the Victorian era? Opinions, good or bad, on this coverage are welcome!



## Editorial Policy

The editors have the final say over content in *Cameo* in the interests of balance and relevance to the readership. Space in each *Cameo* may be limited as compared with the volume of material submitted by all the authors. The editors retain discretion over punctuation, spelling, grammar, use of colour for illustrations and whether to reduce the size of illustrations to fit the space available, but should not change wording, delete text or delete illustrations without full knowledge and permission of the author. If the editors consider amendment or deletion of text or removal of illustrations to be necessary they will discuss it with contributors. If contributors are then unhappy with proposed changes they can withdraw their items.

Rob May / Barry Burns

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**Scope :** The West Africa Study Circle studies the postage stamps and postal history of The Gambia, Gold Coast/ Ghana, the Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Camerouns & Togo together with the islands of St. Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha & Gough and the British Postal Agencies in Madeira, Tenerife, St. Vincent and Fernando Po.

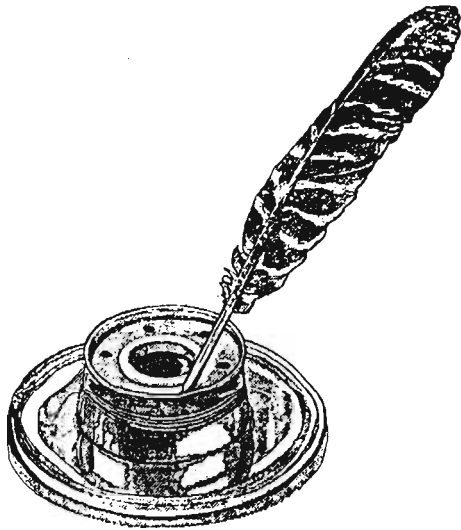
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	Colour	Full page £90	Half page £50

### Front Cover

St Helena ½d Grey and Black  
From bottom right corner of sheet (right selvedge removed)

1st Printing; Invoiced 30.12.22, Despatched 3.1.23, Total 117,180 stamps  
see pages 165-171



## 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 & Barry Burns*

### **FAM 22 via Leopoldville**

Dear Mr Burns

With reference to the June *Cameo* and the article by Bob Wilcsek, the FAM 22 to and from Leopoldville continued to carry mail, including air mail between North America and South Africa, up to January 1945 when it was suspended due to the crash of the China Clipper at Trinidad. Services by Sabena and SAA certainly existed. Further details will be in three books that I am at present writing on all Intercontinental Air Mails from the beginning of the service up to August 1945. The three volumes will be:

- 1 Atlantic and Pacific, which should be published later this year;
- 2 Between Europe, Asia and Australia;
- 3 Africa

The last two hopefully will be published next year.

Yours sincerely  
E.W. Proud  
Heathfield

### **Ex-German Tax Mark**

Dear Barry,

I refer to the article in *Cameo* 71 pp109-110 about the re-use of the old German 'T' boxed handstamp in Cameroun in the 1950s.

Whilst reviewing Marty Bratzel's new book (see p126) I have noticed that he illustrates three more examples:-

- Kribi 6 Feb 1949 to Douala
- Yaounde 27 Oct 1955 to USA by surface
- Ndikinimeki 13 Feb 50 to USA by air

This example is struck with a larger and more worn handstamp with no dot after the 'T'.

These new records do not conflict with the hypothesis that these marks were applied at

Douala, using old handstamps (now two known) pressed into use after World War II. The EKD is now February 1949 for the longer-lived version with a stop after the 'T'.

There is also a nice parallel between the cover illustrated at the top of p110 of *Cameo* and the 1955 cover in Marty Bratzel's book. Both are purported to be franked 15f for air mail to the USA. Marty explains at his p139 that 15f was the air mail rate to France but was not even enough to pay surface rate to the USA. That tariff was 17f, with 23f air mail surtax. So each of these covers has been diverted to surface mail **and** marked postage due. Both are de Lawrence covers to Chicago, and it seems the arrival post office at Chicago was well-prepared for them, having their own handstamp in two lines:

'Postage Due.....3 Cents  
Chicago, Ill. For. Sec. 2'

-3 US cents being the equivalent of the shortfall against the surface mail rate.

Yours  
Rob May  
Princes Risborough

### **St Helena 1d Rate Cover**

Dear Rob and Barry,

Belatedly, a thought on the St Helena 1d cover featured in *Cameo* No. 70, p55. Might this simply be a cheap souvenir, bought amid the Tristan Relief scramble, cancelled by favour on cover and returned there and then to the purchaser - and the address added much later to make the thing look realistic?

I have several such implausibly franked 'posthumously' addressed covers (from elsewhere in the world, though the principle is the same), none of which can have genuinely travelled. Does Mr Oxley's cover look travelled in any way, and/or

does it appear ever to have contained anything?

All the best,  
Michael Round

*I can confirm that the cover was certainly not travel weary, and had no evidence of having been stuffed with correspondence. Although it had been opened carefully with a letter-opener or suchlike, this proves nothing - Barry*

### **Gold Coast BUI Cancellation**

Dear Barry and Rob

I would like to respond to the article on the BUI cancellation written by Jeremy Martin in the latest *Cameo* (June, p101). Actually there is a place named Bui in Ghana. It is situated in the centre-west of the country, against the international frontier with Côte d'Ivoire along the Black Volta river. The place is known for its fabulous gorge and the location where the government signed a contract with China to construct a second 400MW hydroelectric dam. President John Agyekum Kufuor will have, on Friday 24th August this year, cut the sod for work to begin on this project which has been estimated to cost about \$620 million. The Bui site was discovered as a potential site for hydroelectric power development in the 1920s by Albert Kitson when the British Government embarked on a campaign to assess and develop potential hydroelectric sites to support the social and economic development of the country. The remote location might also explain the 11 days delay for the 1902 cover to reach the coast. I hope this will be of some help.

Regards,  
Marc Parren

### **Forthcoming Publication**

Dear Barry and Rob

Volume II, The French Navy and the AEF Columns, of Dudley Cobb's study *Cameroun in the Great War*, will appear this autumn.

Advance orders, at £27 post free in the UK, to the author, Les Capsades, F-09140 Couflens, France. It is hoped to include a review in the next edition of *Cameo*.

To whet your interest, here is the blurb: "...This second volume deals with the French naval vessels which served in this area between September 1914 and March 1916 and then, in succession, with the four columns which set out from Gabon, Moyen Congo, Oubangui-Chari and Chad to take possession of the German colony of Kamerun. In each chapter, after a summary of

operations, attention concentrates on selected letters and cards, with an analysis of their markings and the postal routes they took. The overall approach casts new light on numerous facets of mail from this campaign....50 pages in English, with 6 maps, monochrome illustrations and 16 colour plates."

Best wishes  
Dudley Cobb

### **Postal Situation in Liberia from 1989 - an update**

Dear Rob,

This letter updates my earlier article in *Cameo* No 64, January 2005, pp294-295. A peace accord was signed in August 2003 between the Liberian Government and the rebel leaders, but this seems to have had little effect on the sporadic postal service and only the two cancellers illustrated in my previous article have continued to appear on international mail. The smaller canceller always appears with a manuscript date or none at all - it does not seem to be equipped with a date slug. The large circle postmark appears on mail posted in 2002 and 2003; with the small postmark appearing from 16 December 2003 onwards.

We still know very little about the postal situation other than what we learn from the mail that turns up. I have been sending mails to Monrovia addressed back to myself in Japan. These have taken from 8 June 2004 to 21 January 2005, from 2 July 2004 to 21 January 2005, from 14 September 2004 to 24 January 2005 and from 12 October 2004 to 18 September 2005 to make the round trip by air mail! These covers were franked with various colourful agency issues.

Takuzo Inoue  
Nagoya, Japan

### **Trans-African Wartime Air Mails - Bibliography**

Dear Rob,

Many thanks for the June 2007 complimentary issue of *Cameo*, with my letter to Jack Ince in it. Since then I have been in communication with John Wilson, and it will be interesting to see what comes of this. I sent him my entire collection of articles on the subject on a CD-ROM; - seven articles running to 31 pages.

Please note one small correction in your reprint of my letter: the four (not three) *APJ* articles appeared in January 1999 ("FAM 22"), April 2000 ("Airmail across Africa in WWII"), July 2000 ("Iranian Airmails to the USA"), and July 2001

("The British West Africa Route of WW2"). These four articles sort of go together, and run for 31 pages. In fact I have sequenced them together by continuing the page numbers from one article to the next.

Furthermore I wrote two more articles on Chinese airmails with an African connection, "Chinese 2-Ocean Mail" in June 1997 and "A \$5.65 Rate Cover" in September 1999. The Chinese articles are 13 pages total. I have found another rare Chinese rate cover (\$12.50, by FAM 22/18 to England in March 1943 and an article on this is now submitted to both the *APJ* and *Cameo* (see next issue - Ed.)

Finally there is a "Palestine 2-Ocean Airmail" article I wrote for *APJ* in December 1999 that has some relevance; another six pages.

I am not sure what more to do with this topic at this time, other than to see what John Wilson comes up with. Of course, I will share anything and everything with him and Jack Ince and see where it takes us.

Bob Wilcsek  
San Diego, CA, USA

**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 Plumbe
- St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone – Philip Beale & Peter Rolfe
- Togo – Jeremy Martin

## Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals

Members are invited to contact either editor by e-mail, post or telephone when they notice any article they feel might be of interest to other members.

**France & Colonies Philatelic Society Journal**, Number 244, Volume 57, Number 2, June 2007

*The Postage Stamps of the French National Liberation Committee, Algiers, in WWII* by Bob Maddocks

*The Post Offices of French West Africa, Part 4 French Guinea (Conclusion)* by Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

*Anglo-French Occupation of Togo* by John Mayne

*French Sudan 1940 Airmail Stamps* by Richard Wheatley (newly discovered plate varieties)

**The Overprinter** (Journal of the GB Overprints Society), Number 2 of 2007, Summer

*A BOFIC Cover* by John Davies (1950 philatelic cover from Tripoli to Kumba, Cameroons, with AV2 strike in transit)

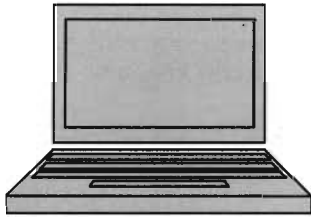
**Gibbons Stamp Monthly**, pp67-69 July 2007

*'The Bible and the Plough' Expedition to the River Niger 1841* by Bob Maddocks

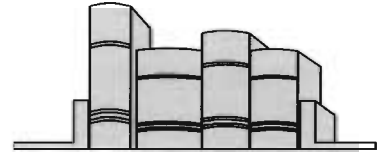
**London Philatelist**, pp156-181 June 2007

*AR in the British Isles* by David Handelman - not of immediate West Africa relevance but a very clear exposition of the AR service as it was used and misused by the British


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West Africa Study Circle Web Site at : <http://www.wasc.org.uk>  
Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact [harris6@which.net](mailto:harris6@which.net)



## Sources



For all WASC book orders and payments please contact 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.

 *The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration 1916-1959*, by M.P. Bratzel Jr, published by the author, 2007, ISBN978-0-9694026-4-0, 219 pages, card cover, spiral bound, with black & white illustrations throughout, also with a CD-ROM enclosed in a wallet at the back. To order from the author contact Dr M.P. Bratzel at 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ont N8S 2Z1, Canada or on-line at [marty\\_bratzel@yahoo.ca](mailto:marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca). Price US\$80 plus P&P, £40 plus P&P or 58 Euro plus P&P. Review by Rob May


This study is the culmination of 20 years of research in the USA, UK, France and Cameroun, during which time the author has compiled the great majority of the relevant issues of the original sources of postal instructions; the *Journal Officiel du Cameroun*, the *Journal Officiel de l'Afrique équatoriale française*, the *Journal Officiel de l'Afrique occidentale française* and *Rapport annuel adressé par le Gouvernement français au Conseil de la Société des nations sur l'administration des territoires du Cameroun*. Previously no library or archive had a complete set of these documents, but all of these sources are now compiled on the CD-ROM enclosed with this book, for further study by readers, with a very user-friendly hardcopy index set out in the last sixteen pages of the book.

That alone deserves great credit, but the author has also reconfigured the postal rates taken from these sources into a series of very user-friendly tables showing each category of postal service with its dates of changes and amounts of the tariffs between 1916 and 1959. Along the way there are clear descriptions of the workings of many of the more obscure services - this reviewer particularly noted the "normal" use of the PP (Port Paye) boxed handstamp for bulk mailings of newspapers and printed periodicals, and other mails paid for in cash, as opposed to its exceptional use during periods of shortages of postage stamps. Also of interest are special rates for election materials and for correspondence regarding taxes, rates for visiting cards and greetings cards, and also the postal practices surrounding "S.O." (official service) material. Readers will gather that this study has relevance for students of any of the French Colonial postal administrations, where similar postal practices were followed. But this comes with a health warning: "...the effective date of a rate or fee change in France was not necessarily the date for the change in Cameroun and, indeed, elsewhere within the French community"

Turning now to the most difficult period: 1940-1945. The official records during the Free French period have not been found, nor have air mail tariffs prior to June 1940. A detailed analysis of the air routes of the time is also beyond the scope of the book. On the other hand the relationship between Sterling, the French franc in the Vichy zones of control and the banknotes issued for Free French Africa is concisely explained, including noting the currency conversion rate between the Free French zone and Sterling (176 Francs to the Pound), and later between the CFA Franc and the French Franc (1 to 2 after 18 October 1948). Marty Bratzel has used the air mail surcharges published in France for mails from France up to June 1940 then draws upon Bob Picirilli's study of rates shown by covers to the USA up to 1945 to deduce that the surtax for that route was 13Fr from circa November 1941, 16Fr from circa March 1942 and 19Fr from circa August 1943.

The tabulations and chapter index are so user friendly I am hesitant to make one small criticism; it is a pity the illustrations are not numbered and indexed as well.

The author says "As an aside, the spectre of 'scope creep' was a real challenge", and that "hopefully, a proper balance has been struck". All I can say to any reader is that the balance has been struck triumphantly - this will be a definitive work for collectors of French Africa for many years to come.

 MICHEL *Übersee-Katalog Band 5, Westafrika 2007*, Published by Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, 1,456pp; price €69.00. ISBN-10: 3-87858-774-0, or ISBN-13: 978-3-87858-774-3. Review by Michael Round.

Most of us will know one or more catalogues intimately – Gibbons, Yvert, Scott – and will swear by them (or possibly at them) out of sheer habit. Not everyone may have considered the fourth name in the game – Michel – and this recent update, contained in one WASC-friendly volume, may make newcomers curious as to what it offers.

First of all, the scope. A German publisher naturally treating non-German territories as equally “foreign” means that this **Michel Overseas Catalogue Volume 5 (West Africa)** combines the listings for all British Colonies and former colonies with the relevant French and Portuguese areas south of the Sahara and down to Cameroun. Gambia, Gold Coast/Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are therefore in; Liberia is in; the Portuguese Guinea and Cape Verde are in, and the French components include all of AOF plus Cameroun. It would seem unnecessary to report that French Equatorial Africa is out (this is a ‘West Africa’ catalogue, after all) were it not that, over-generously perhaps, the previous (2002) edition of this volume had included Tchad, Oubangui and the Central African Republic (though not French Congo or Gabon). Regular catalogue updaters with wide-ranging interests, be warned. Most importantly, while the French-colonial and independent issues of **Cameroun** and **Togo** are here (as are Togo’s overprints on Gold Coast), the German Colonials are not: they are dealt with (and in depth) in the Michel Deutschland catalogue.

Does any WASC member collect **Spanish Colonies**? Be warned: they are not here - not even Spanish West Africa (*sic*). This, together with Spanish Morocco and Sahara, is in Volume 4 (North and East Africa), while Spanish Guinea, in all its forms – and, for that matter, Portuguese St Thomas and Principe – is in Volume 6 (South and Central Africa).

For **British Colonies**, we would scarcely expect a German publisher to match the accumulated research of generations of British collectors gathered into a British catalogue (Gibbons) aimed at a British market. In this area Michel is nevertheless far, far better than a simplified list: it includes watermarks, perfs, dies and a few shades, plus – where known (and unlike Gibbons’ SOTW or any Yvert volume) - exact dates of issue. But it contains no errors nor minor varieties, and members with interests confined to classic British Colonies may – almost – stop reading now. “Almost” – because, most usefully, Michel’s prices for mint stamps before 1945 are for mounted, rather than unmounted. Members recalling Michel’s long-ago (and unfathomable) practice of pricing everything in notional ‘Michel-marks’ (requiring wholesale conversion for use in the real world) may rest assured: modern Michels have dropped this practice. The following examples may define Michel’s current market awareness: the good Sierra Leone KGV1 1½d is €20 MM, the good 2d €40; the good Gambia KGV1 1½d (carmine) is €120 MM (€18 U). Used prices (for stamps with contemporary cancellations, we are warned) do not lag behind: Nigeria’s 1935 Silver Jubilee set is €14 MM and €45 U, the Gold Coast KGV1 basic definitive set €38 MM and €75 U (the alternative line/comb perfs are noted but not listed nor separately priced). **French Colonies** listings are simpler than Yvert or Gibbons but still throw up some surprises, like two sizes of country-name on Benin’s 1894 ‘Tablet’ issue. Here as elsewhere, used are sometimes priced higher than MM, without reaching the wildly over-optimistic levels of Gibbons: true values in this area seem to vary within Europe, the main (French) market doggedly pricing used lower than mint in spite of known (and freely admitted) scarcity.

The greatest value in this bulky volume lies in the listings of **new issues**. As regular *Cameo* readers know, much of real philatelic interest lies hidden amid the torrent of Agency commemoratives - but information on it can be very hard to come by. Lack of information presumably means that Gibbons’ and Yvert’s strict editorial criteria for inclusion are left unmet, hence their sometimes patchy and incomplete listings, or in the worst case – Cameroun – absent altogether. It still seems absurd, however, that despite copious on-cover evidence of genuine postal use neither Gibbons nor Yvert lists any Cameroun issue since 1995.

Scott enthusiastically lists all the new issues it can find, with periodic requests for more information, but its listings are split A-Z among six volumes, while the only non-simplified Gibbons listings to appear in print since the 1980s are buried in *GSM*’s largely un-indexed new-issue supplements. Gibbons seem to have no plans ever to update the old Parts 12-14, Africa A-Z. Yvert catches up slowly but there are vast lacunae in

Bénin and other perplexing gaps elsewhere. Those of us wrestling with the intricacies of Ghana reprints, Nigeria perforations and Bénin surcharges will therefore leap on Michel with cries of joy, for – time and time again – they are all here, very reasonably well up to date too (Cameroun reaches the 8-value Japan set of 2005, for instance). Imprint dates (e.g. for Sierra Leone) are all noted, and priced whenever accompanying a change of perforation or watermark. If Gibbons and Yvert are unduly cautious, Michel is not indiscriminately charitable: items of dubious pedigree are carefully signalled either with ‘A’ numbers, Roman numerals instead of normal, or with occasional footnotes. Some (italicised) prices are provisional, and many modern issues are as yet un-priced, whether M or U - but the listings themselves are priceless to researchers.

Michel’s **layout** is particularly helpful, and – once you get used to looking under K for Cameroun, O for Upper Volta and (more startlingly) E for Ivory Coast (Elfenbeinküste) – makes any new issue easy to locate. This is crucial, given the sheer quantity to wade through, with the numbering for Gambia now reaching 5461 (including 681 miniature sheets), Sierra Leone 4784 (608 ditto) and Ghana 3794 (472). A column-wide band announces each year *in situ*; illustrations, though small, are copious; airmails appear chronologically among ordinary postage issues (officials, dues and the rest appear later); definitives appearing piecemeal (like Ghana’s small-format stamps, or both sizes of Senegal’s ‘Élégance’ issue) are cross-referenced at every entry, and so are (praise be!) all overprints and surcharges, beneath the listing of the basic stamp – an invaluable timesaver when trying to identify, say, any one of Bénin’s (so far) 504 different overprints. To its credit, Scott does the same; both catalogues also help by boldly illustrating some overprints on faded-down images of the basic stamp for extra clarity.

Members with fluent German will gain most; suppliers like Vera Trinder can provide a booklet translating Michel’s general preface into English, but cannot be expected to do the same for every footnote, many of which are crucially important when defining postal validity or other circumstances of issue.

At €69, this catalogue is not cheap. Much of it is unavoidably filled with Agency material (any fans of Betty Boop, Mickey Mouse or the Space Race among our members? No, I thought not). Thematic collectors will find wildlife species names only in German and Latin, making identification (particularly within many a same-value se-tenant block) somewhat difficult. Perforations are described to the nearest quarter, but don’t always match listings published elsewhere. But the benefits so far outweigh any tiny blemishes that after months of use I unhesitatingly recommend it to any other member with more than a passing interest in the post-independence period. Hard-copy catalogues will undoubtedly become scarcer, too, in time; as I say at the close of most reviews these days, snap this one up before it disappears into cyberspace.

**A Postscript** - Martin Frankiewicz, the Scott catalogue editor has written to the editors asking if any member knows of a mystery Senegal overprint, thus “*A collector recently showed us a copy of the Senegal stamp attached, a 275fr surcharge on the 410fr Paris-Dakar Rally stamp of 1987, Scott No. 770. The stamp, off cover, appears to have a 1995 cancel. I have not found a listing for this stamp in any other catalogue. I have inquired with the Senegalese postal authorities to ascertain whether this is a legitimate issue, not surprisingly once again to no avail. Have any West Africa Study Circle members seen this item?*” Michael Round was quickly able to confirm that:

“The 275f surcharge on 410f item you sent is listed in Michel 2007 as No. A 1280. The given issue-date is 1994 (no day or month ventured), and Michel heads it ‘16.Rallye Paris-Dakar (ii)’, allotting it the status of a follow-up issue to the three-value set immediately preceding it (Michel 1278-80, Yvert 1050-2, SG 1250-2, Scott 1066-8). For this latter set, incidentally, all catalogues agree a 1994 issue-date (Michel adds 5 Jan), its millesime 1993 notwithstanding. This itself underlines a typical feature of Senegal issues since around 1985, namely, issue dates often a year (and sometimes more) later than that implied on the stamps themselves. The basic 410f stamp on which the 275f surcharge fell is another example, being inscribed ‘1987’ yet not actually issued until 22 Jan 1988. The surcharge is currently un-priced M or U in Michel, and is an isolated issue; no other surcharges accompany it - so far as we know!

The ‘A’ before the number is Michel’s sign that this issue was only belatedly noticed, and shoe-horned into the listings ad hoc. No surprise there!”



# Auction Report



**John Wilson Togo  
at Cavendish 26 April 2007**

Report by John Mayne.

Whilst the vendor suggested that the 85 lots of Togo offered in this sale were accumulated, rather than collected, they nevertheless covered the period from 1884 to the late 1920s including British, German and French material. 60 out of 85 lots were sold. Pre 1914 items are not often seen for sale in the UK and only half the German-period lots were sold, with two postal stationery cards printed by Kolonialhaus Berlin selling well above expectations.

Fourteen lots of 'British' yachts attracted good bids; a sheet of the one penny surcharge narrow setting, SG H28, at £300, over estimate. The Lea forgeries displayed by John Wilson at Warwick two years previously realised £340, double the estimate. A 1914 registered cover sold well at £240, against the estimate of £100.

'French' yachts offered included a full range of the lower values including a 10pfg reply card c.t.o. at Anecho. This card, which was thought not to exist by Gibbs, sold for £300 against estimate of £200. The Dahomey postal stationery items, which can be unexpectedly hard to find, realised only £70 - a good buy.

Gold Coast issues un-overprinted on cover found buyers. A full range of local overprints was offered, with £850 paid for a block of four of the 1d with inverted overprint, one with the small F, and £750 paid for a single such variety on cover, one of only two known. A sheet of the 2/- London overprints unexpectedly realised £1100. Gold Coast postal stationery and censored mail mostly sold well. A cover with Martin & Walton censor tape 211.02, possibly unique, made £260. Then a cover with violet PAQUEBOT, stated in the catalogue as believed to be the only one known made only £150; but as this scribe knows of two others this is maybe not such a surprise. A cover to Canada, the only mail so far recorded to that country, and in fact from the 'Appam' incident sold for £70; below estimate and another good buy.

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# The Railway(s) at Old Calabar

Bob Maddocks

May I add a couple of 'lines' to Rev. Warrell's intriguing view card of the railway track at Old Calabar? (*Cameo* 71 p112). Whilst I quite agree with the comments that Calabar was never connected to the Nigerian Railway network, there were in fact various schemes proposed at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries to link the then major port to the hinterland by rail. However, the discovery in 1913 of the deep-water harbour at what was to be Port Harcourt and the decision to develop it as the railway terminal for the country east of the Niger destroyed Calabar's hopes of further development.

Rob's observation that the card seemed to be Edwardian is, I believe, confirmed by another card from the same sender, known only as 'Jack', mailed from Duala 25/1/03, having been written on RMS *Tarquah* 25.XII.02. The greeting on both cards is in the same handwriting (Fig. 1).



Figure 1

Card written on  
RMS *Tarquah*,  
sent from Duala  
January 1903



Figure 2

Card written  
13.12.04  
sent via  
SS *Bornu*

Another line of interest is seen on another Old Calabar viewcard - this time of a Mono Line (Fig. 2). The card was sent via SS *Bornu* to England where it was postmarked PLYMOUTH/SHIP-LETTER/JA 6/05 (Fig. 3). Where did this line run between? Was it for Government Officials' use, say, between the European residents' quarters and the port area, or more likely, for use on a commercial plantation (palm oil)? The lines are open!

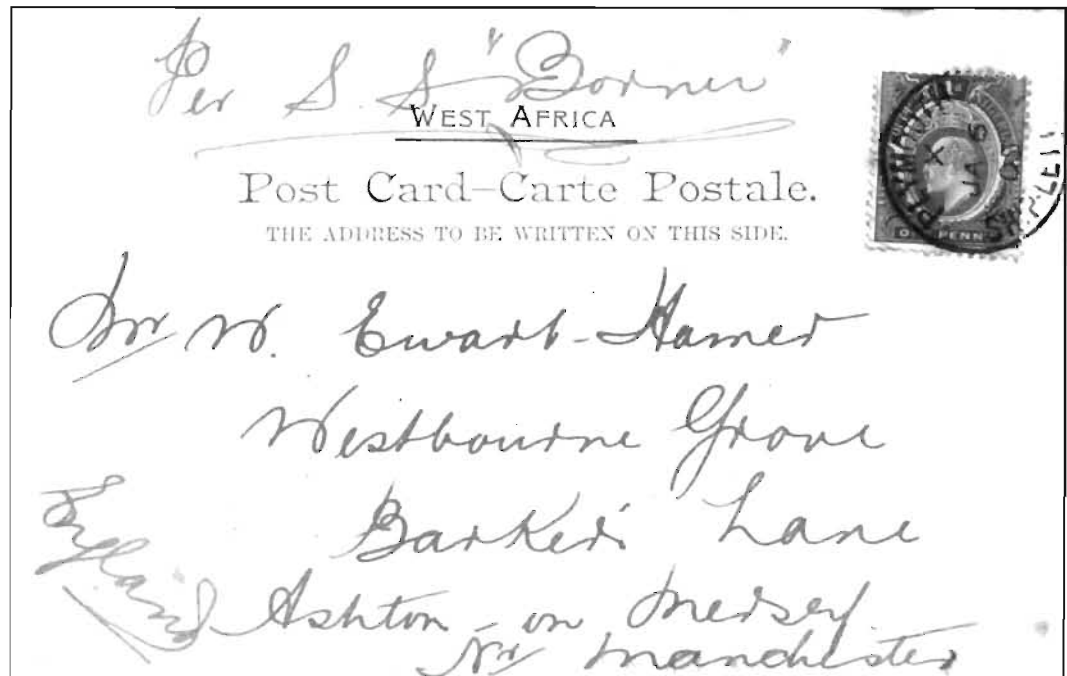


Figure 3  
Address side of  
Figure 2



## WWII Inter West African 'On Active Service' Cover Turned & Re-used

**Bob Maddocks**

This cover, illustrated p132 (at 80%, Fig. 1) opened out with both sides to view, is an interesting example of economy of stationery in wartime in British West Africa.

Originating from Nigeria, the stampless / free frank cover was mailed from Yaba on 5 February 1945 to an army driver, one Godwin Ajiri, serving with 829 CTC "B" Platoon, West African Service Corps, West Africa Forces. The country of destination, i.e. where the addressee was stationed, was not given in line with wartime security regulations. However, from the evidence of the subsequent turning and re-use of the same envelope a month later, this country was Sierra Leone - FPO No 537 being located at the capital, Freetown (E.B. Proud *History of British Army Postal Service* 1982).

At the latter place the cover was subsequently turned and re-used for dispatch to the United Kingdom (Fig. 2). Again mailed free frank, being superscribed 'On Active Service', it was postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE /537 /A/10 MR/45 at the military post office. It also bears a Sierra Leone WWII military censor handstamp Type A600 Crown over Shield containing the words PASSED BY / CENSOR / No / 7810 struck in grey-blue over the censor's signature.

Turned, twice used envelopes were not, apparently, normally allowed for mailing to foreign addresses by the censorship officials and, when found, they were returned to sender by the censors - a practice noted elsewhere in West Africa. This cover was probably acceptable for the second usage by the Sierra Leone censors since it had not been compromised through any censor markings on its original mailing. Moreover,

Great Britain, the country of destination, would not have been considered as a foreign address in terms of its then colony.

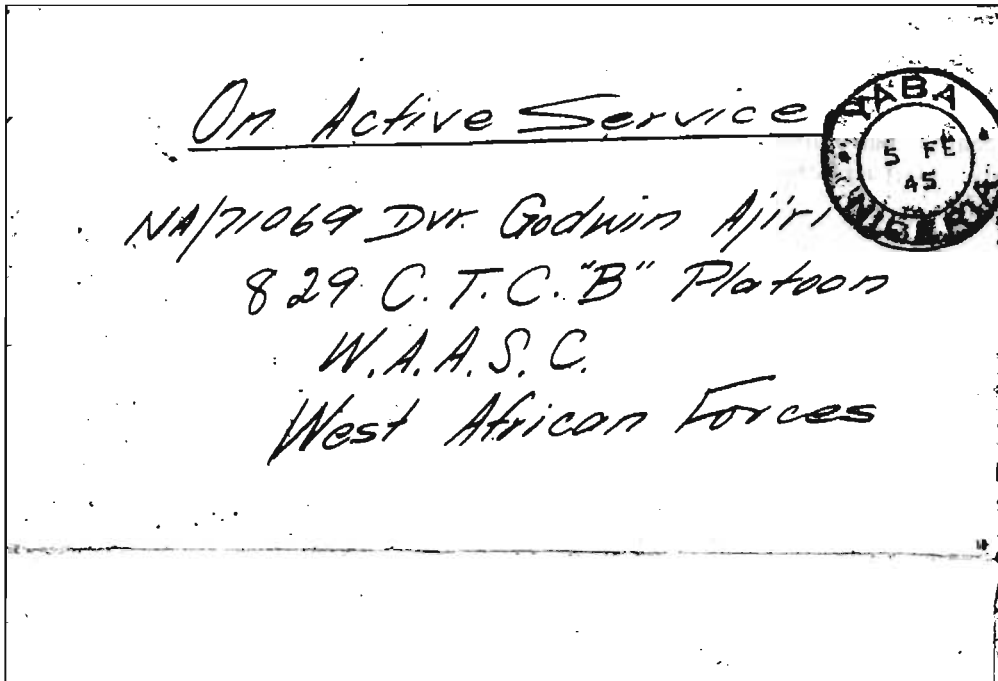


Figure 1 (left)

1st Mailing  
YABA  
5.2.45

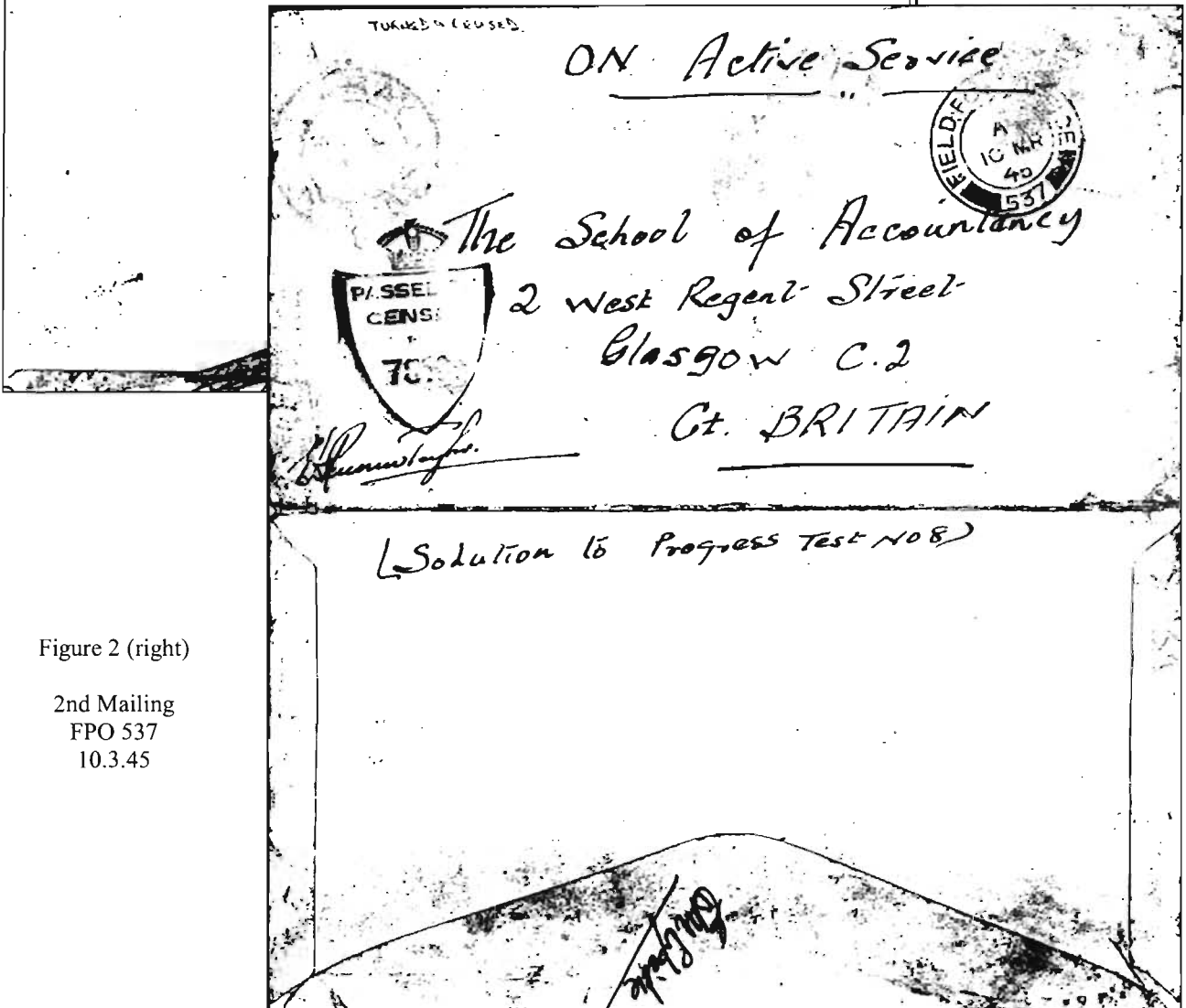


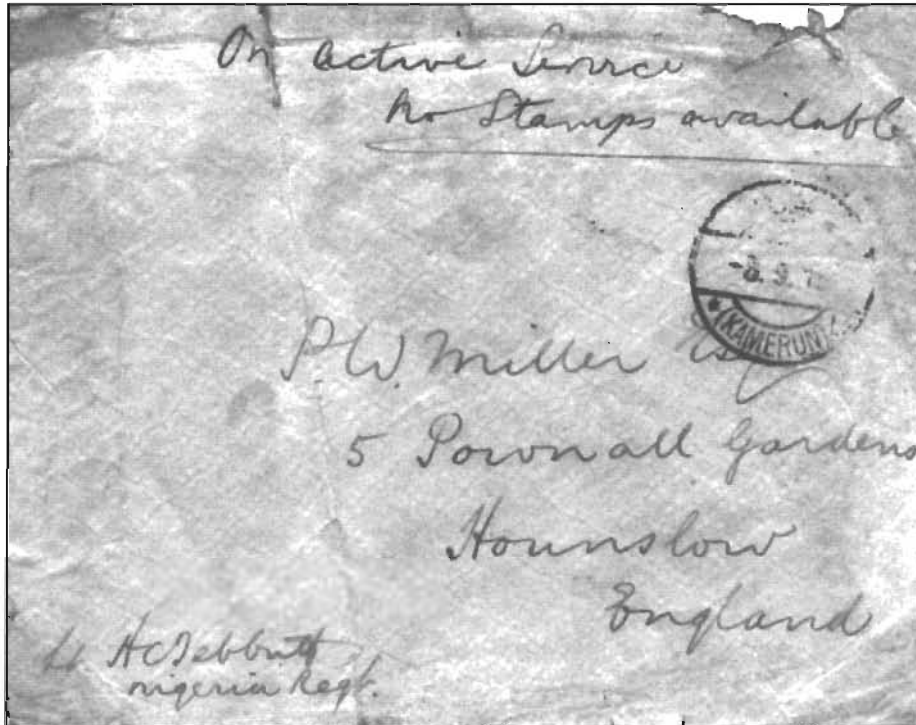
Figure 2 (right)

2nd Mailing  
FPO 537  
10.3.45

# Another Cameroons Campaign Letter of 1915

Alan Warrell

The June issue of *Cameo* referred to a letter from the Cameroons Campaign of 1915 (Ref. 1). I illustrate (at 90%) an 'On Active Service' cover from Lt H.C. Tebbutt of the 2nd Nigeria Regiment of the West Africa Frontier Force whilst on active service in the Cameroons. It was posted in Duala, and cancelled there on 8 September 1915 using the German Colonial Postmark.



The first page of the enclosed letter deals chiefly with Family matters, but the second page includes an interesting description of the country:-

*This is a wonderfully interesting country. I have been up the Northern Rly about 100 miles, thro' swamp and dense bush (forest & jungle), up & down volcanic mountains, some of which have been in eruption during recent years. Most of the craters are cup-shaped with one side broken out. Some of these mountains are covered with forest right to the top, and others with elephant grass over twelve feet high in places. The Germans have been very thorough in most things here. There are some quite good roads and one runs practically the whole length of the country. The two railways are good and we have been able to repair all the bridges and also make use of the engines. The work done by our own RE's on these is really wonderful.*

*I think most things would grow in this country. The soil is really wonderful where the bush has been cleared. Tobacco, cotton, cocoa, rubber, palm trees of all kinds, bananas, plantains, oranges, limes, pines, spices are just a few of the things. Hard timber is abundant, teak, mahogany, ebony & many others. The rivers are very good and navigable quite a distance up the country, but most of them have an awkward bar to negotiate. Duala is the best & quite large ships come up alongside the wharf, quite the exception on this coast. It is a place worth keeping - if we share the Cameroons with the French when the war is over I hope we keep it...*

## Reference

- 1 Harris R., "A 1915 Northern Cameroons Campaign Letter", *Cameo*, Volume 10 p 67, WASC, June 2007

# Invalidation of Ascension Stamps 1994

Barry Burns

I illustrate the two pages of a Post Office Ordinance for the invalidation of Ascension Postage and Revenue Stamps, dated 30 June 1994. My only comment is that if the present British Post Office were to announce a similar instruction today the counter queues would be long and slow moving!

AB2

## Legal Notice No. 2 of 1994.

### ASCENSION



### POST OFFICE ORDINANCE STAMP (INVALIDATION) (ASCENSION) ORDER 1994

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance the following Order is made:

#### Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Stamp (Invalidation) (Ascension) Order 1994.

#### Stamps no longer valid

2. A postage or revenue stamp comprised in a stamp issue specified in the Schedule is not valid for the purposes of the Post Office Ordinance on or after 1 July 1994.

#### Saving

3. A stamp invalidated by this Order may be exchanged for a stamp or stamps of equal face value at a Post Office or postal agency within Ascension or by an authorised agent elsewhere at any time before 31 December 1994.

#### SCHEDULE

##### Stamp issues invalidated

1976	(26 Apr)	Definitive—Birds.
1978	(4 Sept)	Ascension Island Volcanic Rock Formations.
1979	(19 Feb)	Bicentenary of Captain Cook's Voyage.
1979	(24 May)	Ascension Day.
1979	(15 Sept)	80th Anniversary Eastern Telegraph Company.
1979	(12 Dec)	Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill.
1980	(18 Feb)	Ferns and Grasses.
1980	(1 May)	"London 1980" International Stamp Exhibition.
1980	(11 Aug)	80th Birthday of The Queen Mother.
1980	(15 Sept)	Fish.
1980	(17 Nov)	150th Anniversary of Royal geographical Society.
1981	(15 Feb)	Green Mountain Farm.
1981	(27 Apr)	"Space Shuttle" Mission and Opening of 2nd Earth Station.
1981	(11 May)	Flower Definitive.

---

1981	(22 May)	Early Maps of Ascension.
1981	(22 July)	Royal Wedding, Prince Charles.
1981	(14 Sept)	25th Anniversary of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
1982	(22 Feb)	75th Anniversary of Boy Scout Movement.
1982	(19 Apr)	150th Anniversary of Charles Darwin's Voyage.
1982	(15 June)	40th Anniversary of Wideawake Airfield.
1982	(1 July)	21st Birthday of Princess of Wales.
1982	(29 Oct)	Commonwealth Games, Brisbane.
1982	(1 Dec)	50th Anniversary of B.B.C. External Broadcasting.
1983	(1 Mar)	Fungi.
1983	(12 May)	Island Views (1st Series).
1983	(1 Aug)	Bicentenary of Manned Flight. British Military Aircraft.
1983	(20 Sept)	Introduced Species.
1983	(28 Nov)	Seashells.
1984	(3 Jan)	150th Anniversary of St Helena as a British Colony.
1984	(10 Apr)	Visit of Prince Andrew.
1984	(28 May)	250th Anniversary of "Lloyd's List".
1984	(26 July)	New Coinage.
1984	(26 Oct)	Island Views (2nd Series).
1985	(8 Mar)	Trees.
1985	(7 June)	Life and Times of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.
1985	(19 July)	Guns on Ascension Island.
1985	(4 Oct)	75th Anniversary of Girl Guide Movement.
1985	(6 Dec)	Wild Flowers.

Made this 30th day of June, 1994.

By His Excellency's command.

ETHEL YON,  
Acting Chief Secretary.

---

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## Togo: August 1914

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

Little is known about the first weeks of the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo (Ref. 1). Now, Erich Schlieper from Germany has produced two large (270 x 143 mm) commercial covers from the firm F. & A. Swanzy, Limited dated August 1914 and sent to London.

*Continued...*

The first, Figure 1 (*approx. 40%*), has the Lome German datestamp Type 008.01 (Ref. 2) of 19 Aug 1914. In manuscript there is *Paid: No stamps available* and also *Censor D.S.* with, in red, Censored DS bottom left. I cannot trace whom DS might be. There are no backstamps.

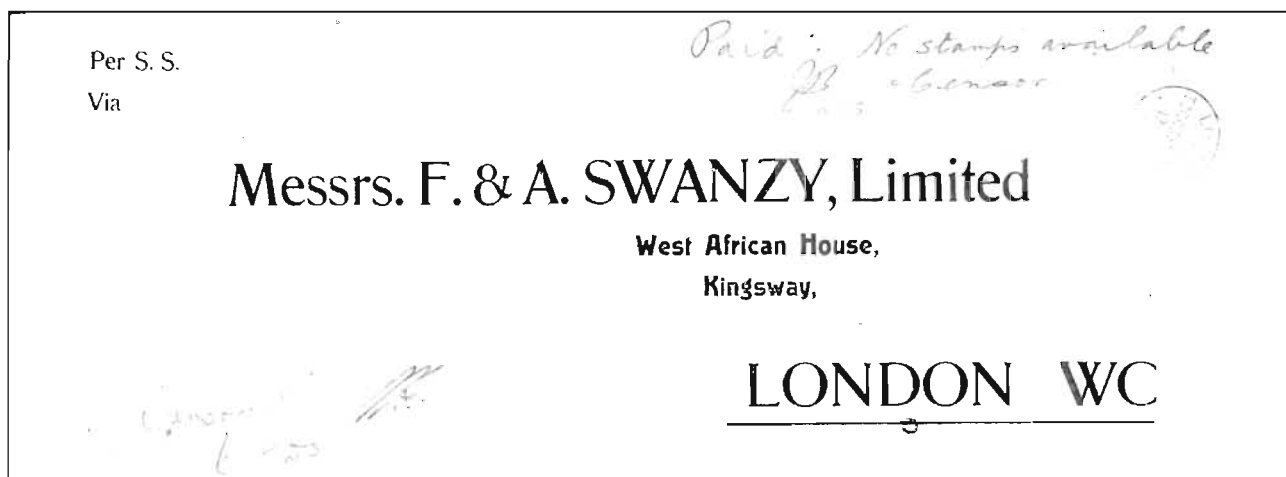


Figure 1

Censored cover from Lome

The second cover, Figure 2 (*also approx. 40%*), has a similar Lome datestamp of 28 Aug 1914 with *paid 1/2* and *1<sup>s</sup>/2<sup>d</sup>* in manuscript. This would seem to be 2d for registration and, at 1d per ounce, 1s for a letter up to 12 ounces. Note also the hand-drawn registration cachet. On the reverse there is an oval arrival mark *REGISTERED / 13 SP 14 / PLYMOUTH*.

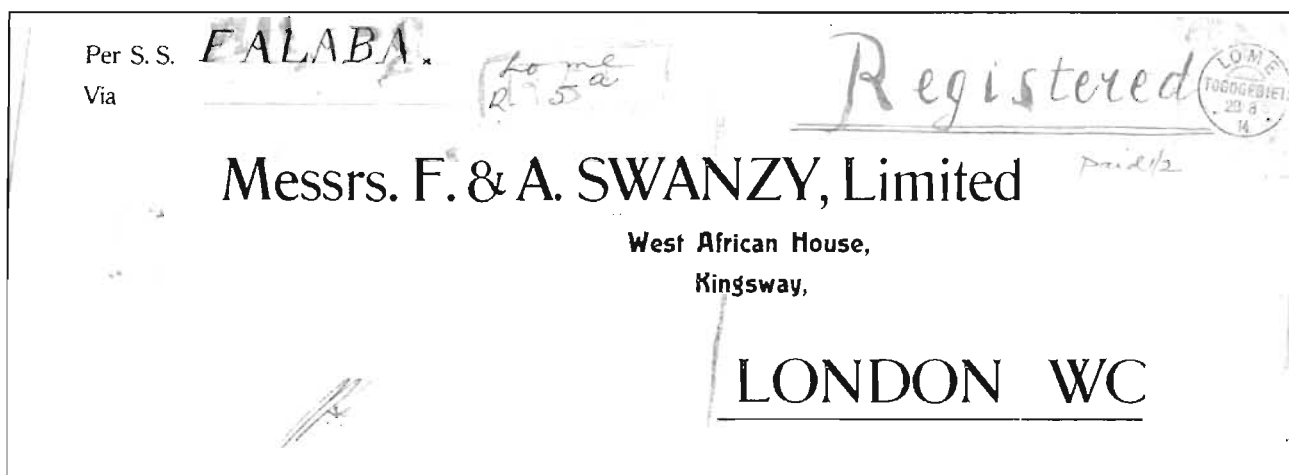


Figure 2

Registered cover from Lome

What is of interest is that, despite fighting in the north of Togo, commercial activity continued in the capital as evidenced by the first cover.

#### References

- 1 Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, pp 17-18, WASC, Sheffield 1995
- 2 *ibid*, p 56



# The Independence of the C.E.F. Post Office, Duala in WWI

**Bob Maddocks**

In my book (Ref. 1) I quoted on page 80 from correspondence between the Postmaster General, Lagos and the General Post Office, London in respect of the status of the Cameroons Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) Post Office, Duala as follows:

“9 Dec 1914 - a temporary Post Office at which British Postal Orders will be sold is being opened at Duala, Kamerun. This office will account to Nigeria in the same manner as an ordinary Post Office in that Administration.”

This has elsewhere been taken as evidence that the C.E.F. Post Office thus came within the overall control of the Nigerian Postal Administration though I did point out, however at the same time, with the appropriate reasons, that this was not the case. Accountability to Lagos did not include the sale of C.E.F. postage stamps at Duala - or imply that the C.E.F. Post Office was otherwise an integral part of the Nigerian Postal Service and sold Nigerian postage stamps too.

In this respect and by way of amplification, it is useful to refer back to another letter I had mentioned previously in the same book, namely that of 11 November 1914 from the C.E.F. Commander, General C.M. Dobell to the Governor General of Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard. The full text is therefore quoted as follows:

*I have the honour to inform you that in order to meet the convenience of members of the Force under my command, I am desirous of arranging for the issue of postal orders at Duala.*

*To enable this to be put into execution I request that you will, provided your Excellency sees no objection, be so good as to authorise the Postmaster General of Nigeria to issue British Postal Orders on the requisition of the Financial Officer attached to the Expeditionary Force.*

*I suggest that for the **purpose of accounting** (my emphasis - RJM) the Postmaster General of Nigeria be allowed to treat such **issues of Postal Orders** to the Duala Post Office in the same manner that he treats issues to stations such as Calabar and Onitsha. The Director of Posts and Telegraphs at Duala will then account to the Post Office at Lagos as would the Postmaster at either of the stations named above.*

*The Financial Officer will take the Orders on charge in his books and will arrange with the Hon. Treasurer Nigeria for the Lagos Post Office to receive credit for the monies realised by the sale of the Postal Orders.*

*In anticipation of your concurrence I have directed the Financial Officer to forward a requisition, prepared by the Director of Posts & Telegraphs to the Postmaster General at Lagos. I have instructed the Director of Posts & Telegraphs to obtain direct from the Nigeria Post Office the books and forms that he will require.*

The Governor General of Nigeria replied on 10 December 1914 that the necessary arrangements had been put in hand; this was on the day after the PMG, Lagos had thus informed the GPO, London as above mentioned.

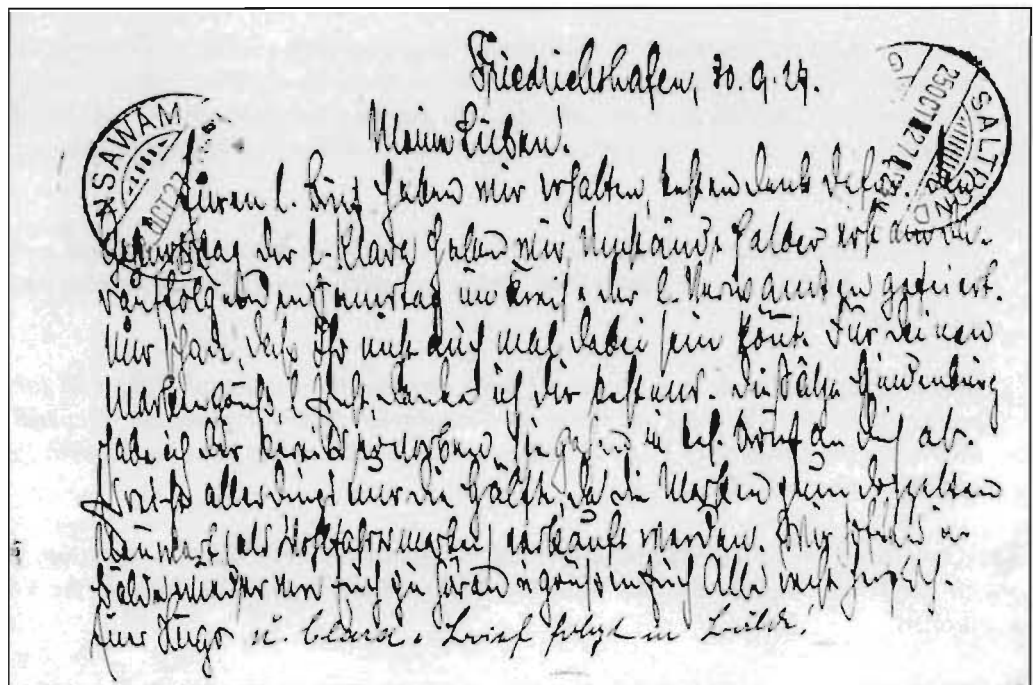
## Reference

- 1 Maddocks R.J., *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, Author, Oswestry 1996

# Missent to Tafo

Ian Anderson

Fritz Kemme recently sent me a copy of this illustrated card (Figures 1 and 2). Posted at Friedrichshafen on 1 October 1927 and addressed to Saltpond, Gold Coast, it received an unrecorded straight line 'MISSENT TO' handstamp above a Tafo postmark of 21 October 1927. From the receiving datestamp on the reverse it evidently arrived at Saltpond on 25 October.



Figures 1 (above) and 2 (right)

Both sides of the Missent to Tafo postcard



# CAVENDISH AUCTIONS

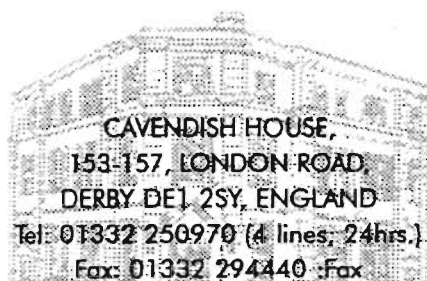
...for those difficult-to-find items



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# Biafra Update

## Un-issued Overprints on the Nigeria ‘Animals’ Issue

**Dudley Prestedge**

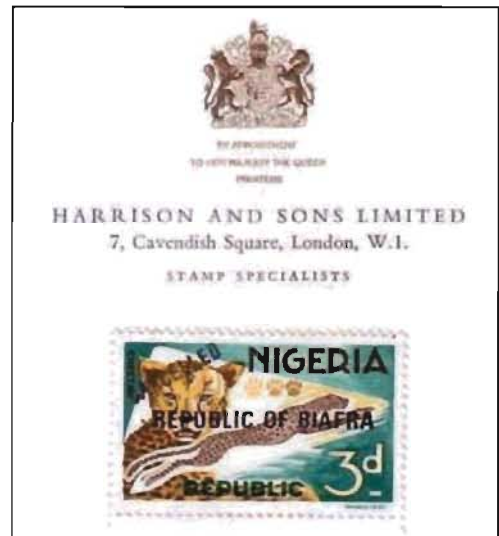
The best thing about research is that something new eventually turns up. A new member domiciled in Australia emailed me for information on Biafra which I did my best to provide. Additional correspondence unearthed information confirming an assumption that had been made many years ago.



A member many years ago sent me the illustrations above of overprints for Biafra on the existing Nigeria issue which were never put into use and it was assumed that these could have been done unofficially by an independent printer or on an official basis for Biafra by the original printer.

The sample at right on an official Harrison's card confirms the likely origin of the original overprinting. The two overprints appear to be identical.

De La Rue who took over Harrison's has stated that they do not have archives of any of the Biafra work.



## St Helena - Coloured Dumb Cancellations

**Bob Deakin FRPSL and Barry Burns**

St Helena's first stamp was a six pence value released in 1856, and until about 1862 they were usually cancelled with a dumb canceller struck in red. From this date black ink was invariably used. Although the remainder cancels of 1904 were applied in purple, we have no record of any colour other than black being used between about 1864 and the end of the reign.



We can now illustrate a purple cancellation on a 1880 One Penny lake (SG 27) and a red cancellation on a 1893 Halfpenny green (SG 36). Both appear to be of the 'Sunburst of 8 Vs', Mabbett Type 04.07. We would be interested to hear of further examples.



# Postal Services for the Canadian Contingent Serving in UNAMSIL, Sierra Leone

## Part 1 - Outgoing Mail

**Capt. Anthony J. Fulmes**

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was established by the United Nations in 1999 to deal with the conflict that had been plaguing Sierra Leone for a decade. Small numbers of Canadian troops (groups of five serving for six months) took part in the mission as Military Observers (MilObs) from 1999 until the successful end of the mission in 2005. The job of the unarmed MilOb was to interview people, observe everything and report pertinent information on the local security situation to the UN's mission headquarters in Freetown, as opposed to the armed UN force that enforces compliance and security.

As a Canadian Army Signal officer, I served as a MilOb between June and December of 2003, at the climax of the related conflict that was continuing in neighbouring Liberia. My post was in the small town of Zimmi, about 10 km (6 miles) from the Liberian border (Figure 1, right). It is set beautifully in the jungle bordered by the hills of the Gola Forest Reserve, the Mahoi River and villages of small subsistence farming plots. My house was typical mud construction with the luxury of having a galvanised metal roof and a road grader destroyed during the war next to the house.



TAMARA AND ANTHONY FULMES  
4 BAYSIDE PVT  
OTTAWA ON K1V 0R3

CANADA

CAPT A. J. FULMES  
#2 MAN OF WAR BAY ROAD  
ABERDEEN, FREETOWN  
SIERRA LEONE



Figures 2 & 3

To Canada  
via New York (above)  
and Geneva

Steve Roby  
1091 TAFFY LANE  
ORLEANS, ON K1C 1Y4  
CANADA

A philatelist for many years, my collecting interests had been focused on the Falkland Islands and British Columbia, but I saw this mission as a golden opportunity to explore a new country that would have personal significance to me. I was not disappointed. Throughout the length of my tour, I never ceased to be surprised by the different and unique situations something as simple as posting a letter would bring me. This article will explain the various postal arrangements that were available for the Canadian contingent to send and receive mail in the immediate postwar period and illustrate the postal situation as it existed in Sierra Leone in 2003. Most of the items shown in this article were in my exhibit, 'Postal Services on Op REPTILE Roto 7 Sierra Leone June – December 2003'.

When initially posted to UNAMSIL, MilObs conduct an in-clearance where they receive mission briefings, register for pay, and conduct other administrative tasks which included a briefing and circular on the workings of the UN postal services. The UN postal service provided the deployed troops a facility to send and receive letters, aerogrammes and parcels while serving. MilObs were given a per-diem and therefore not entitled to any free, UN services. Since the peacekeeping forces came from all over the world, the UN sent out all mail in diplomatic pouches to either their New York City, USA or Geneva offices for security and expediency. Therefore, stamps from the New York and Geneva offices were sold. I took the opportunity to send mail home via both routes (Figs. 2 and 3). This was not as easy as it sounds, as trying to explain why I would want to send a letter to North America via Europe was impossible as the staff had no idea of what the rate would be, not to mention their being perplexed by my desire not to have my mail sent by the most direct route. After overfranking my first letter to ensure it would get to me, I finally found out the rates on the Geneva, UN website and could send letters with the correct rates. The cover in Figure 3 carries the 1.80 Euro express rate.

The UN post office was co-located with the UN HQ in the old Mamy Yoko Hotel. This was where the unique world of minor UN bureaucrats and third world employment opportunities came together. A typical letter or postcard through the New York office cost 60¢. It always cost 60¢. However, each time you brought in a letter to mail, the letter would be weighed and usually the rate written on it in manuscript. This slowed down the posting process and ensured continued high paying (relatively) employment for the Sierra Leonians hired to do this job. This over attention to detail would be displayed throughout the mission.

Troops serving who were part of the armed contingents were entitled to send free aerogrammes. These were available at the UN post office or through the various contingents. Although not entitled to use the service, I acquired a mission aerogramme from the Pakistani contingent that was located in Zimmi. I used it to write a letter to my wife and daughter (Fig. 4) and posted it at the UN HQ mailbox. It made it through the system and the markings illustrate how this mail was handled. The UN post office handstamped the 'FREE MAIL' frank and from there it was sent to the Sierra Leonian post, or SALPOST, where it was cancelled with the Freetown Sorting Office hammer. From that point on it went through normal mail channels to Canada Post's final delivery.

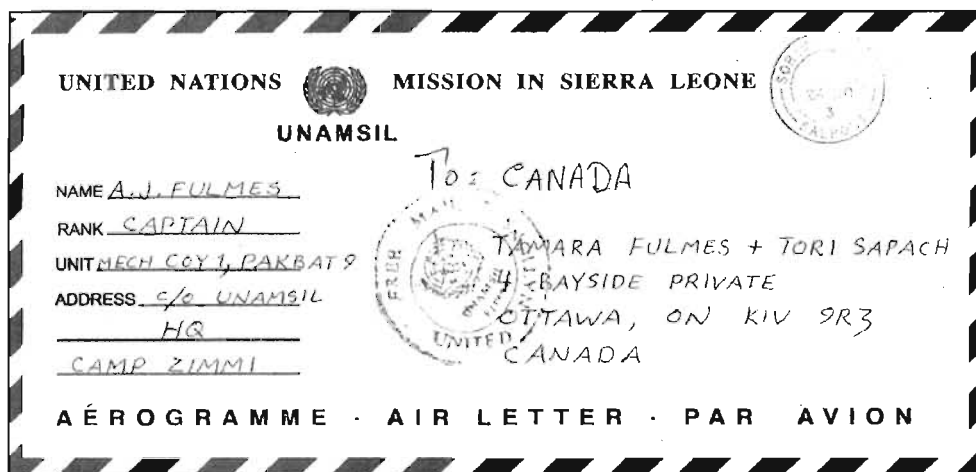


Figure 4 Mission Aerogramme with UN 'FREE MAIL' Handstamp

With our per-diems we could also use SALPOST to send mail home through the post offices the country had managed to restore to service. This of course necessitated buying stamps which was not as simple as one would think. Aside from the post office in Freetown, most sub-offices, postal agents and those few offices outside of Freetown that had reopened rarely had stamps available for sale. Those that did only had the small format bird definitives first issued in 1992 or aerogrammes, therefore prior planning was required. I wrote a lot of letters and bought large quantities of stamps at the main post office before heading to the countryside. I can confirm that working post offices existed in Kenema and Bo (probably Makeni), while within Freetown they were functioning in Brookfields, New England, Hill Station, Port Authority, Kissy Locust Housing and Waterloo. Postal agents offering lesser services and privately operated also existed in the Freetown neighbourhoods of Congo Town, Murray Town, Wilberforce and Lumly.

It was at the main Post Office (Fig. 5) that I met Mr. Brima Bah, the Post Master. Normally if you went to a counter for service (parcel weighing, registration, etc) the only stamps for sale were again the bird definitives. If you wanted to buy and use any of their more infamous 'wallpaper' issues, you were taken into a dingy back room with Mr. Bah who had a desk, a table, and a couple of chairs and looming in the corner, a huge, open bank vault full of dozens of boxes of those rarely used or sold stamps. As the country is beautiful with much amazing wildlife, I focused my purchases on stamps that reflected that.



Figure 5 The Main Post Office in Freetown



Figure 6

The Post Office at Kenema

The nearest operating post office to Zimmi was 85 km away in Kenema, a small city in the heart of the diamond mining district; the control over which was a central reason for the war. It was here that I could post my items during my twice-monthly trips to buy food and visit the UN's district HQ. This short drive would take over two hours to make, crossing countless meter-deep potholes and rudimentary log bridges. The Kenema office (Fig. 6) was typical of those in the country having parcel and registration services and they continue use of the 1958, double ring cancel (Walton 072.06, Beale type 41). The postmaster in Kenema always was impressed that I had his country's more beautiful stamps and was unhappy that they were not distributed to him to sell.

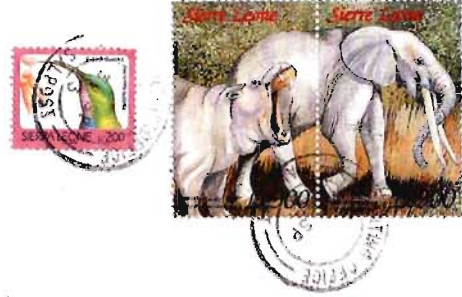
An example of a typical postal agent office is shown in Figure 7. This one was located in Murray Town and was operated by a lady from the open window on the left. Not surprisingly they didn't have stamps to sell, so I had to show her that I had already stamped the letter with the 2000 Leone foreign letter rate. To reach her to post this letter I had to step over a baby who was playing in the dirt! These agents offices did not have their own canceling devices but merely collected mail and passed it on to the central Sorting Office where the letter received its cancellations (Fig. 8).



Figure 7 The Postal Agency at Murray Town

Hill Station originated as the neighbourhood high on the hills above Freetown where, during colonial times, the British administrators lived and played at their clubs. It is magnificently described in Graham Greene's novel set in Sierra Leone *The Heart of the Matter*. The registered letter in Figure 9 was mailed there. Occasionally I required registration services to send items home that had value and trust was not easy in that corrupt post-war country. Registered mail was only available to us via SALPOST and was a trustworthy service. Registration was advisable for any parcel or important items due to the frequent 'losses' within the system. 1500 Leones was the registration fee above the 2000 Leone foreign letter rate.

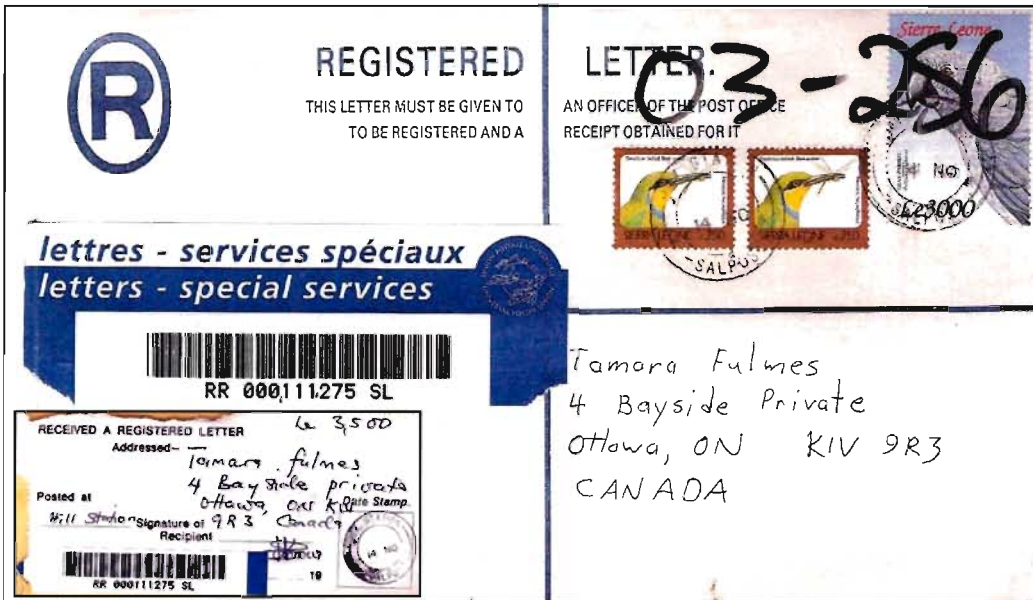
UNAMSIL  
 MILUB: TEAM 6 ZIMMI  
 ZIMMI  
 SIERRA LEONE  
 CAPT. A. J. FULMES



**Figure 8**  
 Cover Posted at  
 Murray Town agency,  
 Cancelled at the  
 Central S.O.

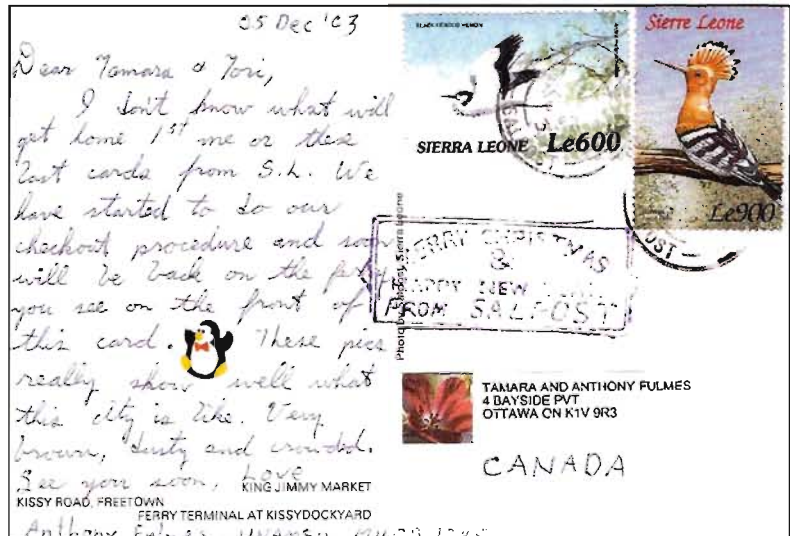
TAMARA FULMES  
 4 BAYSIDE PRIVATE  
 OTTAWA, ON K1V 9R3  
 CANADA

UPU regulations have forced the introduction of bar code tracking of registered items, however within Sierra Leone registration was still done in carbon paper form books with my receipt for this item shown (Fig 9a). These old, 1980s era registered letter envelopes are still available at some post offices. The 5 Leone Registration Fee frank remains printed on the reverse but inflation has rendered it meaningless. The reverse also has a SALPOST, Overseas Registration mark and the Canada Post bar code registration sticker.



**Figure 9**  
 Registered Letter  
 mailed from  
 Hill Station with  
 (inset) Figure 9a  
 Receipt for Same

I continued to send mail home even as my tour neared its end. The postcard in Figure 10, right, was mailed from the Aberdeen office and carries the 1500 Leone foreign postcard rate. Aberdeen Post Office was the closest office to the UN HQ and Canada House, our residence in Freetown. The card is cancelled with the office's distinctive double ring hammer (not yet numbered) while a Christmas greeting cachet was also applied, most likely at the general sorting office!



This item reached my wife after I had already returned to Canada in mid-December, a delay from the surprisingly reliable and quick delivery from Sierra Leone due to the time to process from sub-post office to the general sorting office.

The final means of sending mail was through the Canadian Forces postal service. Normally Canadian Forces personnel on deployment are entitled to send free letter and postcard mail back to Canada. With such a small group we did not have the services of a military post office. The Canadian contingent was given funds to send out our free mail entitlement by using DHL as a contracted shipping agent. This was a very expensive service costing over \$200.00 US for a shipment of maybe six letters and postcards. Because of that I only utilised this service twice, preferring to use SALPOST or the UN system as a matter of economy. The mail went from DHL's Freetown office by air to Toronto, Ontario where it was then sent to the Canadian Forces mail depot at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ontario. At that point each shipment was treated differently. My first batch of mail received the Canadian Forces Mail free frank in blue and then the postage was paid to Canada Post via a postage meter (Fig. 11).



Figure 11 (left)

Canadian Forces Mail  
free frank with  
Postage Meter mark

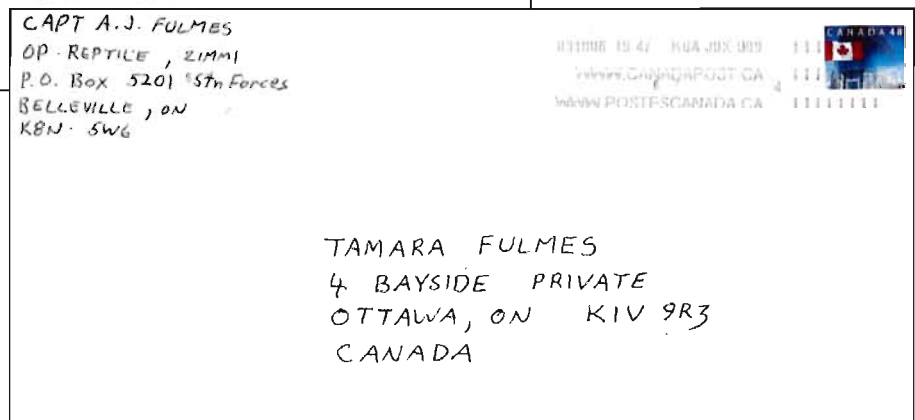


Figure 12 (right)

With Canadian  
48¢ postage stamp

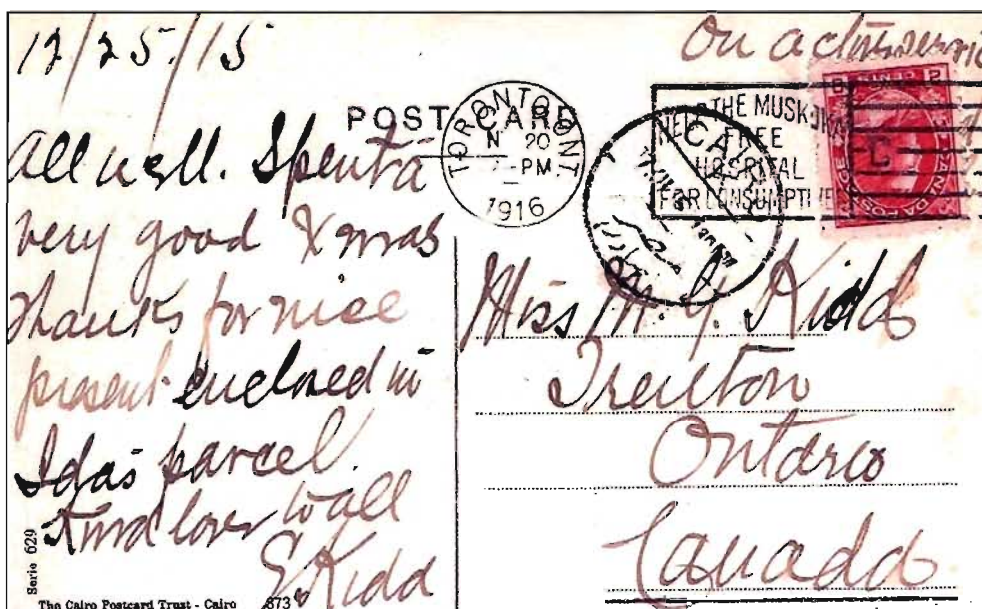


Figure 13

Card sent Christmas  
Day 1915 from  
Cairo

The second batch was given a 48¢ postage stamp and then sent off for final delivery by Canada Post (Fig 12). This is almost exactly the same system used during World War I for mail sent home by troops on active service then.

This last card (Fig. 13, page 146) is from 25 December 1915, sent by Lt Col E. Kidd, the Commanding Officer of No. 5 Canadian Stationary Hospital located in Cairo, Egypt. This was the only Canadian military unit that served in Africa during WWI and mail from it is extremely scarce. As with my mail in 2003, it received a stamp in Toronto, Canada before being forwarded to its destination of Trenton, Ontario, just as mine was 88 years later!

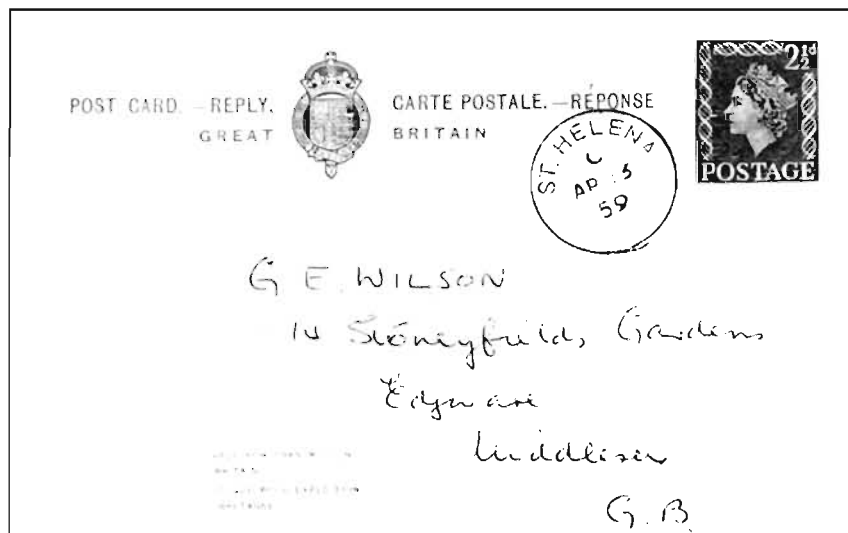
Unfortunately, just as the cover from 1915 is scarce, so too is the mail from this and other recent Canadian military missions. The proliferation of computers and the nearly instantaneous e-mail they provide means that the mail I sent home was the **only** mail sent home on this specific mission. All other Canadians there used either phone services or e-mail. Hardship in theatre, combined with the scarcity of those comforting products from home means that there were plenty of letters and parcels going to the Canadians serving on this mission though. This incoming mail will be examined in the next part of this article.

*Editor's Note. The second part of this interesting account will follow in a future edition of Cameo.*



## Postal Stationery at St Helena in 1959

Barry Burns



This GB Reply Postcard used at St Helena 13 April 1959 (at 80%, from the late I.D. Lampart collection) has an interesting message on the reverse, relating to the availability of postal stationery on the Island. It carries the message:

*Post Office  
St Helena*

*Sir,*

*The postal stationery on sale at this Office is as under:-*

<i>Unstamped air letter forms</i>	<i>¾d each</i>
<i>Unstamped registered envelopes</i>	<i>6d and 7d each</i>

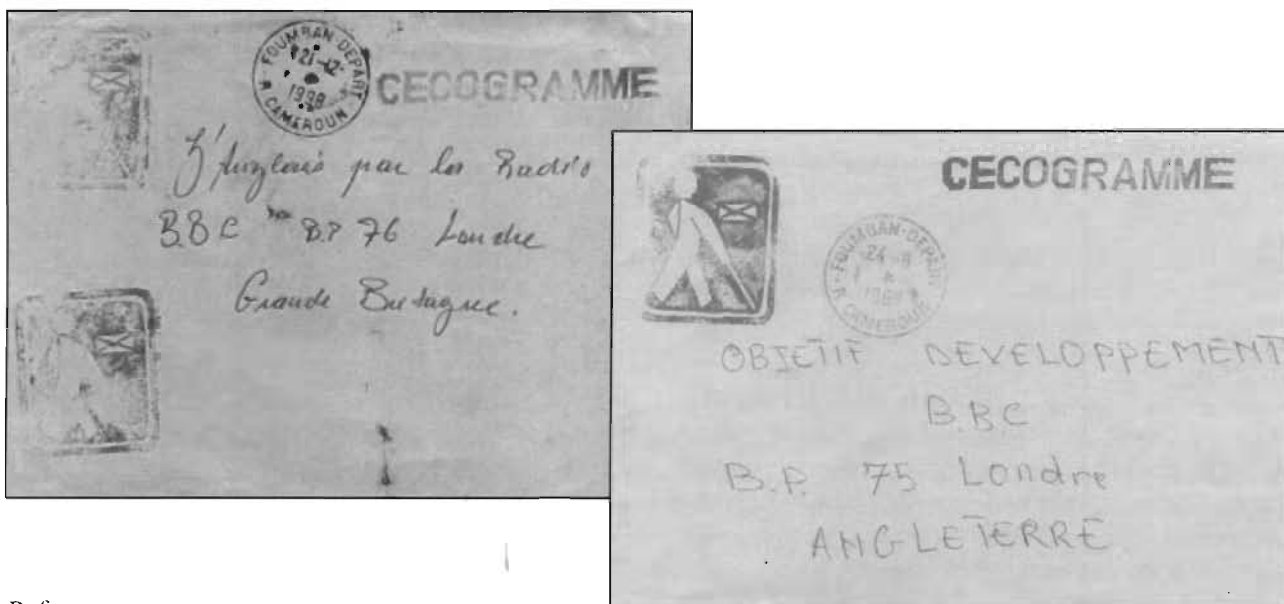
*Yours faithfully,  
Young (?), Postmaster*

# Cecogrammes in Cameroun

Marc Parren

Cécogrammes are concessional postal rates for items sent to or by the blind and partially sighted. A ruling by the UPU Congress in Brussels in January 1959 made that printed matter for the blind were allowed to be posted free for both domestic and foreign destinations provided that the item is clearly identified by the word cécogramme. The French term has been adopted internationally as French is the official language of the UPU and is the international postal language used on labels, especially those applied to mail going abroad. Bister (Ref. 1 & 2) reports the application of a design depicting an envelope and a man with a stick to identify cécogrammes, which were applied on self-adhesive address labels available at a small fee to members of the RNIB in the UK. A similar gummed French vignette was used in 1999 by a French Blind Association on a domestic letter.

Now, here we can report the first utilisation of a postage free cécogramme in a former French African colony to apply the UPU regulation. Two such covers (*illustrated below*) are known by the author both posted in Foumban, Cameroun during 1998 and sent for free to London. Applied to both are a handstamp with the wording CECOGRAMME in upper case, and a handstamp with a design depicting an envelope and a man with a stick.



## References

- 1 Bister, M. (2005). "The 1 Franc Cécogramme rate or à la recherché du tarif perdu", *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, 55(1): 15-17.
- 2 Bister, M. (2006). "Cécogrammes". *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, 56(1): 11-14.

*Editor's Note. This is a revised version of an article that first appeared in the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, June 2007.*



## Foreign Bill Stamps on St Helena Document

Barry Burns

Illustrated as Figure 1 (page 149) is a piece cut from a larger document (printed by Waterlow & Sons, Limited, London Wall, London) which bears two copies of the GB green One Shilling FOREIGN BILL fiscal stamps. They have each been struck in greyish black with an indistinct double oval canceller.

The left hand stamp was only lightly attached, and on removal revealed the wording GOVERNMENT / OF / ST HELENA, as illustrated (Fig. 2). I understand these stamps were sometimes affixed to bank drafts when transferring money abroad (UK to St Helena, or St Helena to UK?). I would be interested to hear of further examples, and any information on the document this piece once formed part of.



Figure 1 (left)

Two One Shilling FOREIGN BILL stamps on part document

Figure 2 (right)  
Left stamp removed to reveal GOVERNMENT/OFF/ST HELENA



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# Cameroun – Postage Due Stamps 1916 - 1923

Rob May

The first postage due stamps issued specifically for use in the French mandated territory of Cameroun were the 'Felling mahogany tree' design issued on 20 May 1925 (date according to Stanley Gibbons).

During the joint Anglo-French campaign a separate French post office in Duala opened on 10 November 1915, with a limited range of services for the French military contingent. When the Mandate commenced on 1 April 1916 the Duala post office was handed over to the French and the emerging postal services in the western part, which became the British mandated territory, were handed over to the control of the Nigerian post office. The French had already issued two sets of provisional postage stamps overprinted 'Corps Expéditionnaire / Franco-Anglais / CAMEROUN' and 'Occupation / Française / du Cameroun', but had not issued any postage due stamps.



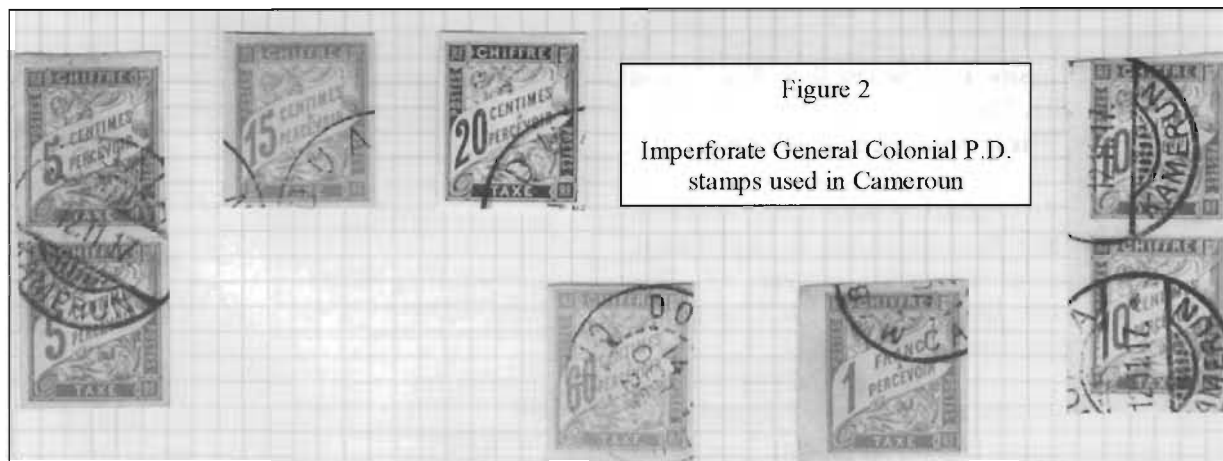
Figure 1 April 1917 Cover with 3 of the 5c imperforate Postage Due stamps

A postal inventory had been found and used by the British at Duala, and no inventory at all had been found at Jaunde's post office when it was captured in January 1916. It took a while to equip the new French post offices with standard French inventory and the Douala (as renamed in French) post office continued to use former German cancellers during 1916 and 1917.

I had wondered for some time what the French administration had used for postage due receipts before the 1925 set was issued. Then, a few years ago the cover illustrated as Figure 1 appeared in a Lugdunum auction. I was fortunate to be highest bidder, whilst Marty Bratzel obtained a photocopy which he has used and described as an illustration in his new book (Ref. 1). It has several interesting features.

The normal French-style tax mark is the 'T in a down-pointed triangle' as seen on this cover. Clearly that handstamp had reached Cameroun by April 1917, the date of this cover, and so had a supply of the French Colonial general issue of imperforate postage dues, first issued in these colours in 1893, as the cover bears three of the 5c value. The letter was written at Yabassi which did not gain a French post office until 10 September 1917, six months later (Ref. 2).

The previous German post office closed on 14 October 1914 (Ref. 2). The writer of this letter could not post it there and so it was probably carried to Douala by hand and posted for local delivery, with the explanation written at the top right of the cover. The postage due stamps were used to collect only the actual rate of postage, not the normal double rate of postage due.



Having realised that it is worth checking the imperforate general colonial postage due stamps for Cameroun postmarks, I have accumulated the selection of stamps off paper shown in Figure 2. The postmarks on the 15c and 20c correspond with Ref. 2 No. 77, spelt Duala, despite being of French issue, introduced later in 1921. The 1fr value may not be a Cameroun usage at all, but does look similar to an early postmark for Maroua, which was apparently mis-spelt with a 'B' for the 'R' (Ref. 2, No. 218).

#### References

- 1 Bratzel M.P., *The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration 1916 - 1959*, p75, MPB Canada, 2007
- 2 Bratzel M.P., Kraja H. & Maddocks R.J., *Les Obliterations du Cameroun 1914 - 1960*, pp24,25,51,73, MPB Canada, 1990



## St Helena KGV 'Spot on Scroll' Variety

Barry Burns

Collectors of the first KGV set of St Helena SG 72-81 will be aware of the listed printing of the 1d value in a scarlet shade, SG 73a. According to Gibbons this was released during 1916 and is described as being on a thicker paper than the original carmine-red shade. Not listed, however, is another value which is also on a thicker paper but, because the two shades are similar to each other, does not qualify for a Gibbons listing. This is the ½d value, also believed to be a wartime printing, and one of the stamps from this printing **only** has an interesting constant variety - the 'Spot on Scroll'.

The stamp in question is from position 5/1 or 49 (the sheets of 60 are arranged in 5 rows of 12 columns). I illustrate a lower left plate block of this printing, with the variety identified. It consists of a green spot on the scroll behind the King's head.



# Stamp Duty Act, Nigeria

Rob May & Robin Davis

WASC member Moses Zacchaeus announced to corresponding members earlier this year that the Nigerian Government had issued a new law that all legal documents are now subject to Stamp Duty before they will be treated as valid. The duty is to be paid at the rate of N50 by attaching an adhesive in a similar format to a postage stamp. This is available at Post Offices.

Probably inevitably, there has been some confusion and the stamps have been appearing on mail used to prepay postage, as illustrated (Figure 1). This example has come from Shomolu but I have also seen two examples from Newi.

Robin Davis has now shown me two examples of covers from Nigeria (Figure 2, below) bearing an instructional mark which appears to be designed to invalidate legal documents that have not been franked with the N50 Duty Stamp, apparently misused. It is very unlikely the postal clerk will have been under the impression that letters need the duty stamp as well as postage; more probably he or she has used it as an indication of postage due on underpaid letters; the letter rate to the UK seems to have changed from N120 to N150 sometime during 2007.

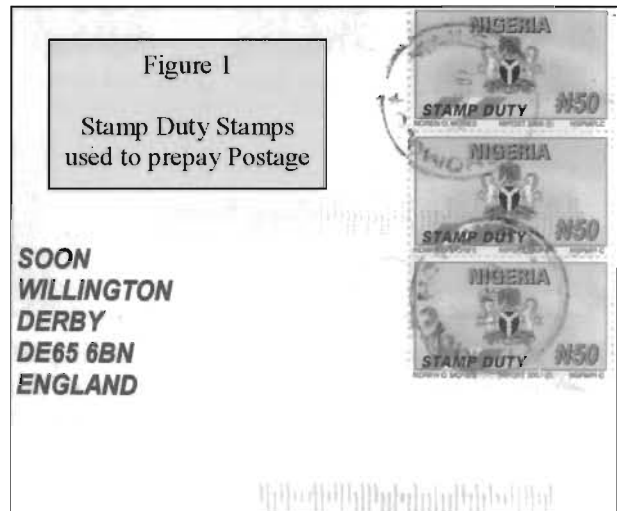


Figure 2  
Stamp Duty  
Handstamp on covers

# Cameroun Overprints of the 1990s

Rudolf Lazar

## 1990 The Cock and Cheetah Comeback

Michel 1165 and 1166; SG 1125 and 1126

On 1 August 1990 two earlier stamps of Cameroun reappeared with new values locally overprinted to serve postal needs. It is interesting to note that the values were extremely reduced from 150 F to 20 F and from 300 F to 70 F thus producing a certain loss to the postal revenues.

The second value of the 20 November 1985 *Birds* set of three, the 150 F (Michel 1102, SG 1062 Cock LE COU - NU) was overprinted 20 F in 1990 with a black obliterator block covering the old value (Michel 1165, SG 1125).



Figures 1 & 2

The original stamp (Michel 1102, left) and the surcharged new value (Michel 1165, right)



Figures 3 & 4

Michel 1103 as a 200 F value in 1985 (left) and as a 125 F value in 1992, Michel 1187 (right)



The third stamp – original value 200 F - of that same *Birds* set was totally reprinted with the new value of 125 F, needed for interior letter postage, in 1992 - which is Michel 1187, SG 1156. Interestingly with this reprint, the printers changed the value but obviously forgot to change the year on the stamp, so it still says POSTES 1985 instead of the corrected POSTES 1992

Back to overprint Michel 1165 - there are variations of length and position of the obliterator block. On examined examples the black block varies in length from 6.5 mm to 7 mm and in height between 3.8 and 3.9 mm. The block's positions differ slightly from right to left in respect to the overprinted figures 150F which it is meant to cover – very small parts of the 150 might even be visible. The overprinted new value of 20 F is generally centred under the obliterator block in a 2mm distance but might also be found pushed slightly to the right or left.

Generally the differences between examined stamps are small and can be judged as variations due to the technical possibilities of the local printers. Because of the limited number of examined stamps, almost all being single stamps, I was unable to determine any possible sheet positions.



Figures 5 (left) & 6 (right)

Michel 1165: The obliterator block's position in its two extreme appearances



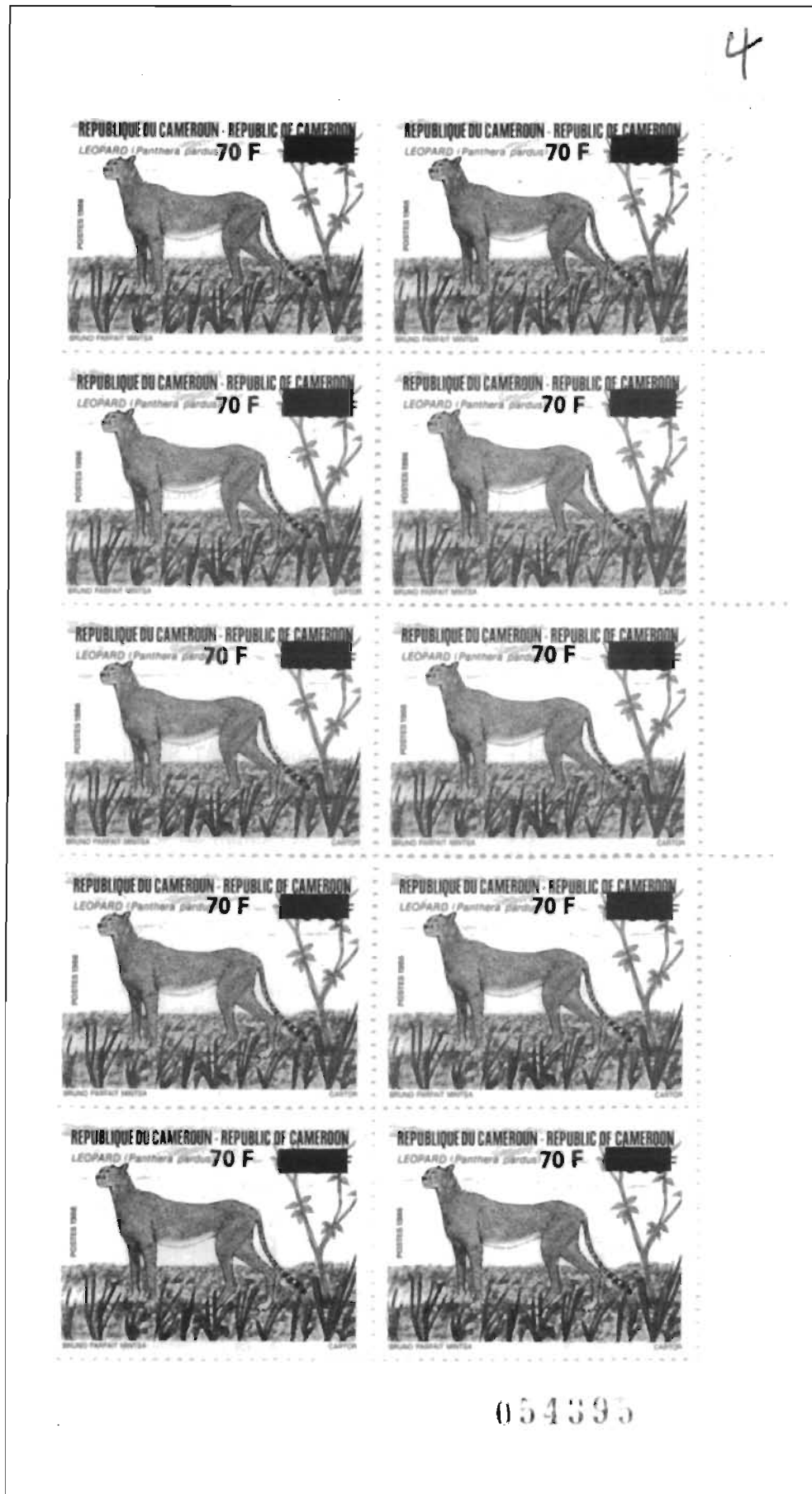


Figure 7  
Michel 1166, SG 1126 - part sheet of 10 stamps showing variations in the position of the value and block

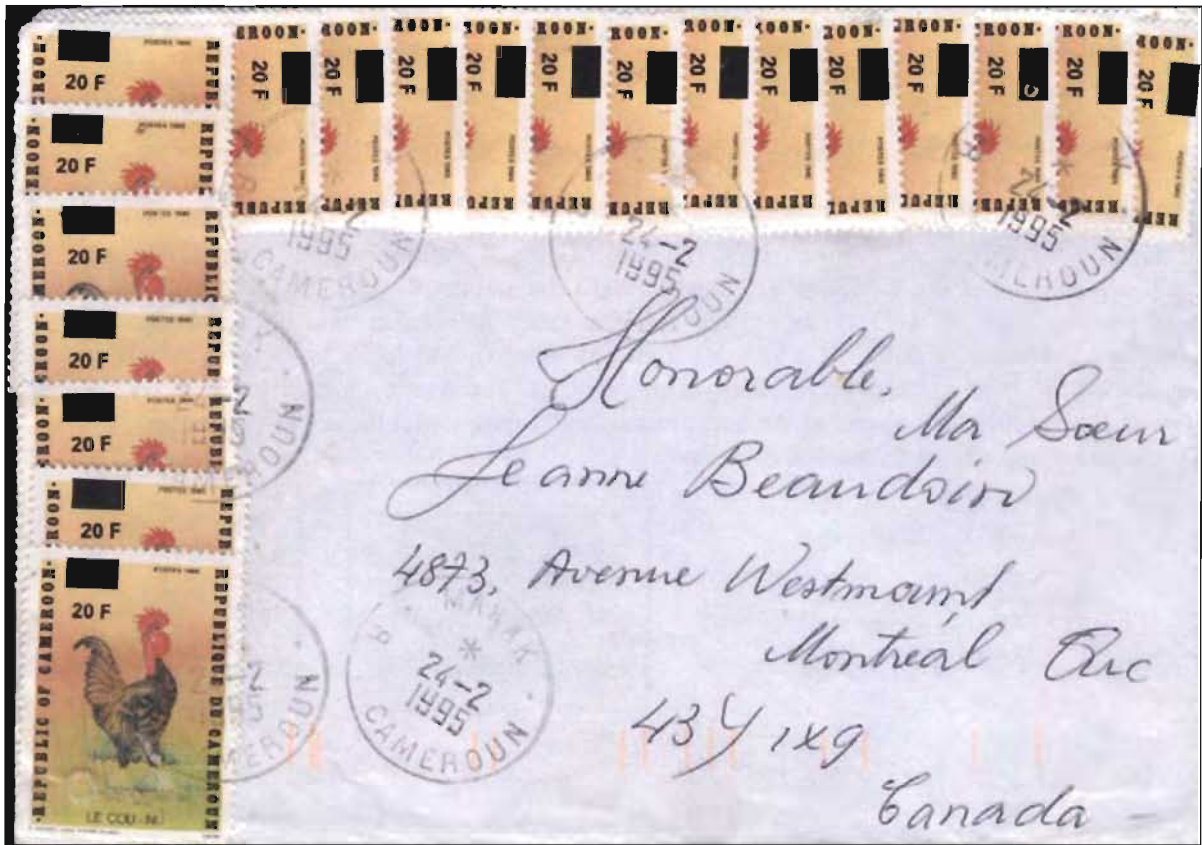


Figure 8

Michel 1165 - 20 stamps brick postage on a letter posted on 24 February 1995 from Makak (Cameroun) to Canada showing all possible varieties of the overprint.

The second stamp of the 20 August 1986 *Animals in Danger* set of two with a value of 300 F (Michel 1134, SG 1093 Leopard - false name for the shown animal which is actually a cheetah) also reappeared in 1990 equally overprinted with a black obliterator block over the value figures and a new value of 70 F 4 mm to the left of the block (Michel 1166, SG 1126). Examined stamps in my possession show considerable differences in position and length of the block.



Figures 9 & 10

The original stamp (Michel 1134, left) and the surcharged new value (Michel 1166, right)



The length of the obliterator block differs between 7.9 and 8.5 mm whereas height comes up between 2.6 and 3.2 mm, the blocks being put more or less exactly over the old value figures. The new value of 70 F is printed between 3 and 4.2 mm to the left of the black block, sometimes covering the last letters ...s or ...us of the animal's (wrong) Latin name *Panthera pardus*.

Differences are visible on the 10 stamp part of sheet No. 54395 illustrated (Fig. 7) on page 154. Overprint variations can presumably be found on every complete sheet according to the position of each stamp and are due to the technical possibilities of the local printers.

### 1991 The Cacao and Sheep Special Stamps

Michel 1167 and 1168 and miniature sheet No. 27; Unlisted SG (mentioned in footnote)

These two interesting stamps may not to be recognised at first glance as overprints, but they really are. They were printed in sheets and together in a commemorative miniature sheet.

The issue had been designed to commemorate the Congress of the Farmers and Cattle-breeders Association in Ebolowa in 1990 (Comice Agro Pastoral D'Ebolowa), but something unknown to me happened and led to the postponement of the Congress to January 1991. The stamps, having already been printed (which is proven by the date of 4 December 1990 on the sheet margin of the single stamps and on the Commemorative sheet, and the POSTES 1990 on the stamps), had to be brought up to date and so the words JANVIER 1991 in black were added as an overprint. The words are hardly visible on the stamps as they were printed into the colours of the background landscapes; under the cocoa farmer on the 70 F stamp and under the sheep's head on the 100 F stamp.

Figures 11 & 12 (right)

Michel Nos. 1167 and 1168  
with overprint  
JANVIER 1991



Figures 13 & 14 (left)

Enlargements of the overprint on the  
70 F and 100 F stamps

On the commemorative sheet (Figure 17, page 157) the words **JANVIER 1991** were **not** printed on the stamps, but appear under the word PASTORAL in the sheet's text. So we actually find two very different stamp sets; one set with overprint and another set without overprint, this only originating from the commemorative sheet. The perforations also differ a bit, the single stamps being 13½ x 13½ whereas those from the miniature sheet are 13 x 13.

### 1993 The Gold Overprints

Michel 1198 and 1199; SG 1134 and 1135

A change in postal rates happened in early 1991. An internal letter now needed a 125 F stamp and foreign postage came to 250 F. New stamp issues being rather restricted in Cameroun, shortages appeared for the local post rate stamps in 1993 and the Officials remembered that a stock of the 1991 **Comice** overprinted set was still available with the no longer needed 70 F and 100 F values. So a local printer was charged to overprint these stamps for the second time!



Figures 15 & 16

The rare 'golden overprints'  
of 1993  
Michel 1198 & 1199



Two gold ink obliterations were chosen to cover the reference to the Congress/Comice, the old value and the earlier overprinted words JANVIER 1991. The blocks vary considerably in length and height and position; just like those of the earlier overprints described above. The badly needed new value of 125 F for

both stamps was further added in black in an upper left position varying according to the stamp's sheet position. As far as I could find out no overprinted commemorative sheets exist.

These so called 'golden overprints' of 1993 are one of the really rare Camerounian stamp sets of modern times because only a limited stock of sheets was overprinted. They were made and sold inside Cameroun, not sold by agencies and stamp dealers, and very few mint sets reached the international stamp market. Stamps of the set without golden overprints still exist in some hidden corners of Camerounian Post Offices nowadays, as I discovered when I bought a part sheet of 10 stamps of the 70 F value in Douala at the end of 2003.

Figure 17  
Miniature Sheet  
Michel No. 27  
  
Stamps without overprint



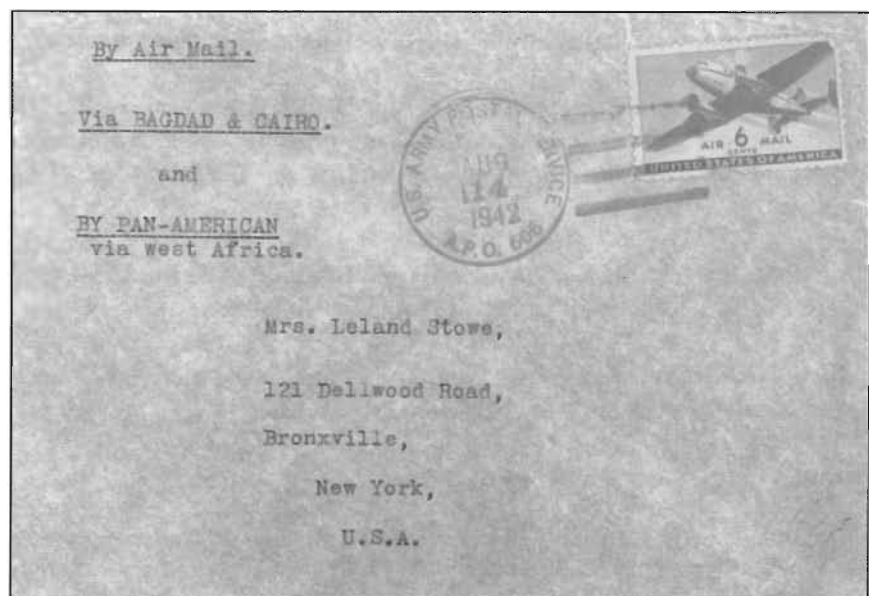
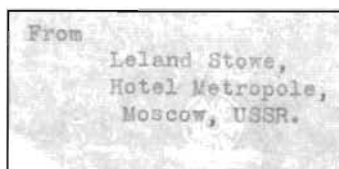
## APO 606 in Accra

John Wilson

Further to Marc Parren's article in *Cameo* No.71 (Ref. 1) regarding mail through APO 606 in Accra, it seems likely that all kinds of mail went through this post office. I attach images of a cover (Figure 1, c75%) which I have as part of a fragmented correspondence to and from an American war correspondent who was located at the time in Moscow, this being confirmed by a book which he wrote in 1944 covering his journeys and assignments. The sender's address is given as 'Hotel Metropole, Moscow' (Fig. 2) and other correspondence confirms his location. However, the cover itself did not receive a stamp and canceller until it arrived / passed through Accra on 14 August 1942.

Figure 1 (right)  
Cover from Moscow  
via APO 606

Figure 2 (below)  
Sender's Address, on flap



I can only assume that the letter was carried by safe hand or diplomatic bag from Moscow via Teheran since this was the only route out of Russia at the time. It was clearly the intention of the sender to use the established air mail route as shown on the instructions to the cover front.

Covers from America to the sender show use of the Air Transport Command route into Teheran but long delays from Teheran to Moscow, for example July 1942 to January 1943, so perhaps the correspondent took advantage of a 'safe hand' method for getting mail back to the United States. I hope this may add to the story of APO 606.

#### Reference

- 1 Parren M., "Did APO 664 in Pointe Noire in 1942 serve US Troops and Flights on the Congo Route?", *Cameo*, Volume 10 pp106-107, WASC, June 2007



## Tristan da Cunha 1961 South African Currency Postage Dues

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

I wrote about these four stamps in the October 2005 *Cameo* (Ref. 1). Examples exist in the Royal Philatelic Collection. There are imperforate essays of each value:

1 cent	scarlet	Reference No.	356-3
2 cents	orange-yellow	Reference No.	356-9
3 cents	green	Reference No.	356-14
5 cents	lake	Reference No.	356-20

All four essays were approved by the Crown Agents on 21 June 1960. See Figure 1 (page 159) for the 2 cents value.

The essays are on two pages. A third page contains each of the four denominations in plate blocks of four. All are plate 1. The 5 cents value is shown in Figure 2 (p159).

Sir John Marriott, then Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, made the following comments:

*The receipt of these stamps from the Crown Agents acknowledged on 4.4.62, the Crown Agents said in their letter that they were never issued to the Public. The proposed issue was abandoned when the Island was evacuated on 10th October 1961 following the volcanic eruption.*

Note that for the two illustrations: Copyright reserved to H.M. The Queen. Not to be reproduced without the consent of the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

My thanks to Michael Sefi FRPSL, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection and to Rod Vousden FRPSL, Assistant to the Keeper, for their help with this article.

#### Reference

- 1 Martin, Jeremy, "Tristan da Cunha 1961 South African Currency Postage Dues", *Cameo* Volume 9, No. 2, Whole No. 66, pp97,99, WASC, October 2005



Figure 1 (left)  
2c. Imperforate Essay

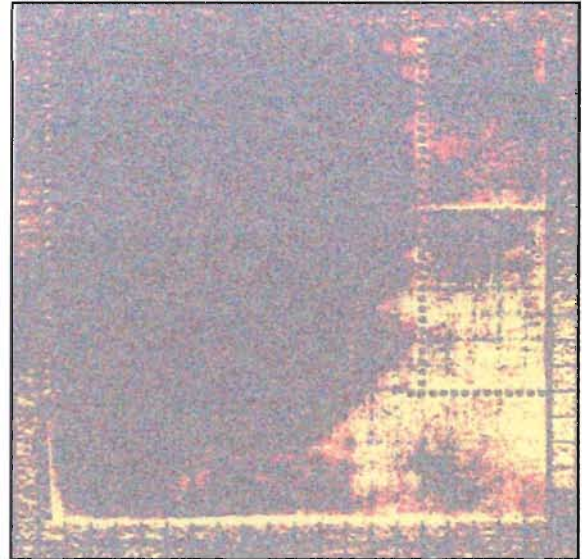


Figure 2 (above)  
5c. Plate (1) Block of Four



## Redrawn Current Ghana Definitives

Ian Anderson

In the June 2007 *Cameo*, p117, Rob May reproduced an article by Hugh Jefferies, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue editor. Hugh was asking for information on the redrawn Ghana definitives of the set first issued in 1991. I have forwarded the following response to Hugh, and it is published here to keep members informed. Any further reports will be welcome!

The earliest date that I can show for the C5000 value is 05.09.2005 and for the C2000 is 17.01.2005 (Figure 1). I would caution that modern postal clerks are careless and in my efforts to compile a listing of all Ghana postmarks I have come across a significant number of misplaced year slugs (1005, 2060, 2606, 2065, etc) which would reduce my confidence in depending on this method for assuming issue dates.



Figure 1  
(left)  
C2000 used  
17.01.2005



Figure 2 (left) lighter shade, green shark



Figure 3 (right) darker shade, brown shark

*Continued on page 160...*

The C2000 is a dramatic redesign with a re-spelt mammal and the 'new' version has already been reprinted several times if the available variations are a guide. Two distinct shades of blue exist, one lighter with a green tinged shark (Fig 2) and one darker with a brown tinged shark (Fig 3). There are also examples with an almost roulette type perforation which I believe to be genuine (top right of Figure 4).



Figure 4 Variations of the C2000 value



## Redrawn Ghana Definitives

Rudolf Lazar

Referring to *Cameo* Vol. 10, No. 2 of June 2007, page 117, I can contribute some records to the research on modern Ghana definitives, as I have a sideline collection of modern West African definitives taken from the mails.



Figure 1

Note variety 'eye spot on tail root' on first lower stamp of the block of six

Denomination in Cedis	Design	Inscription	Earliest canc. date	Notes
500	Exotic fish	Fresh water fish synodontis ocellifer	27 Oct 2006	Variety 'eye spot on tail root' on first lower stamp of the block of six at Figure 1. I have seen a second stamp with the same variety

*Table continues on page 161...*

...Table continued from page 160

Denomination in Cedis	Design	Inscription	Earliest canc. date	Notes
1000	Toadstool	Gomphidius glutinosus	Not legible	
2000	Butterfly on red background with flag	Euphaedra frankina	5 Feb 2007	
800	Bananas	Musa sapientum	5 Feb 2006	
1500	Butterfly	Bebearia arcadius	20 Apr 2005	
1000	Yellow boletus	Boletus edulis	10 Apr 2004	Additional single stamp with part of date cancel for 2003
4000	Flowers	Lagerstroemia flosreginae	9 May 2005	
5000	Redrawn purple egret	Ardea purpurea	23 July 2005	
6000	Flowers	Spathodea campanulata	20 July 2005	

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1893 "Oil Rivers Obliterated" issue – Imperforate colour trials in unissued colours for the six values on ungummed unwatermarked paper, probably struck from original dies

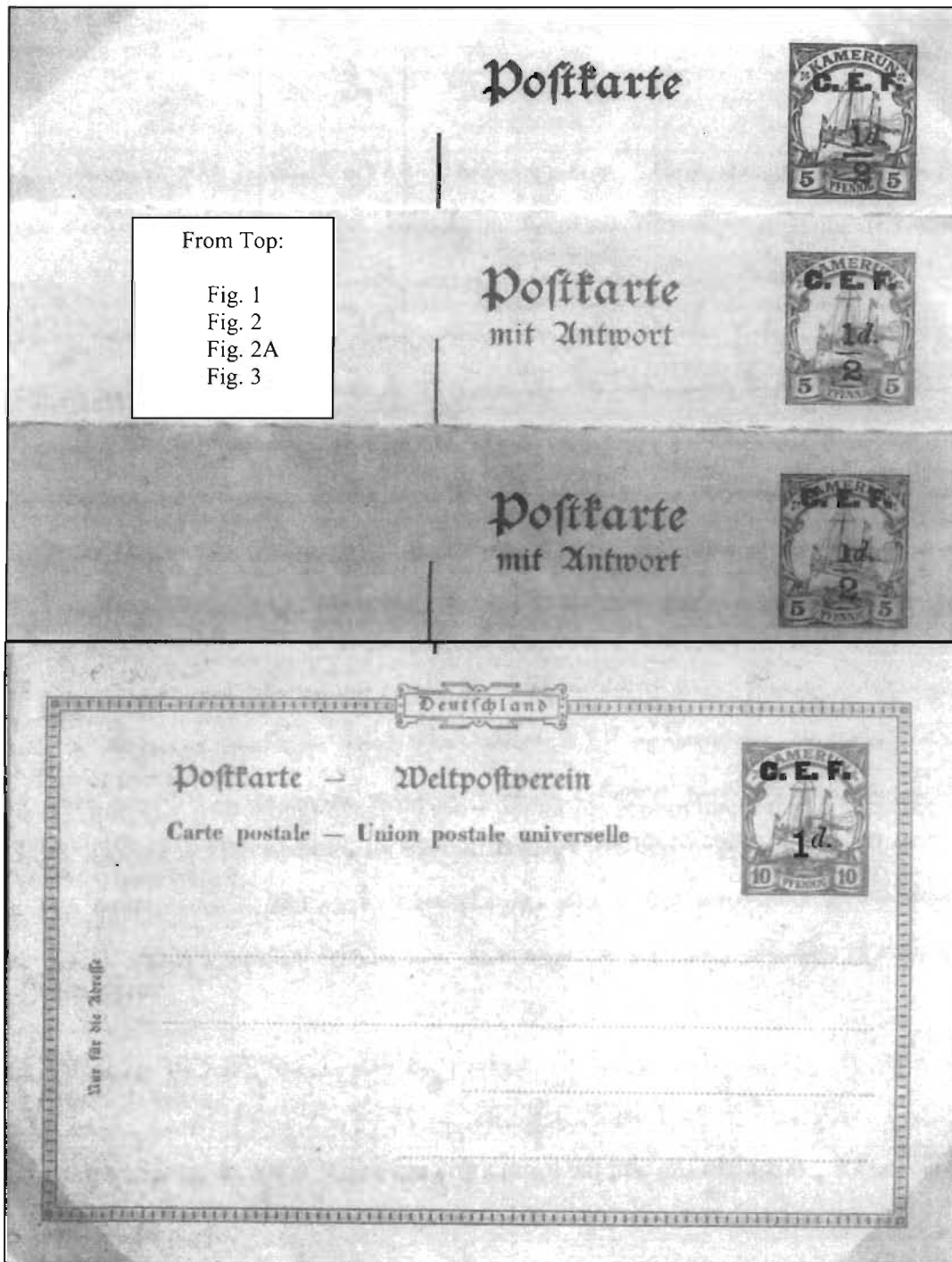
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Tel: 0208 940 5171 Email [rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk) Fax: 0208 334 1091

# 1915 C.E.F. Sterling Overprinted Kamerun Postal Stationery

Bob Maddocks

As is generally known, the British at the onset of WWI had seized from the captured German liner *Professor Woermann*, a supply of German Kamerun postage stamps and postal stationery. These were subsequently overprinted at Freetown, Sierra Leone, 'C.E.F.' and with sterling values. They were then placed on sale at the C.E.F. Post Office, Duala, on 12 July 1915 in sets. A set comprised of 13 adhesive stamps and 3 postcards at a total cost of 13/6d each (Ref. 1). Postally used cards of any value are rarely seen, even ones cancelled to order.



Whilst the overprinted stamps have, over the years, received considerable interest in the varieties to be found, the associated postal stationery has been overlooked somewhat. However, only one variety in the latter has so far, I believed, been recorded. This was by H.G. Porter in 1956 (Ref. 2), but no illustration was provided. For ease of reference the overprinted postcards are detailed and illustrated hereunder:

- Fig. 1 ½d on 5pfg green  
Fig. 2 ½d + ½d on 5pfg + 5pfg green, Reply  
Fig. 3 1d on 10pfg carmine

Numbers overprinted were 20,700, 2000 and 1000 respectively, in black ink.

The two 5pfg cards were printed in green on buff coloured card having a watermark incorporating a lozenge pattern with the letters DIR interwoven individually. The 10pfg cards were printed in carmine also on buff coloured card which was not watermarked. The basic buff colour of the cards now varies through the effects of ageing.

Unlike the overprints on the adhesive stamps the 'C.E.F.' overprint on the postcards is in heavy sans serif capital letters and with square periods instead of dots after each letter.

The mentioned variety recorded by Porter is seen only on the ½d + ½d on 5pfg + 5pfg green overprinted internal rate reply card (Fig. 2A). Here the fraction '1' of ½d is from a different font, being 2½ mm in height instead of 3 mm as on the single card. Also the serif is less pronounced at its top.

Another variety, apparently not previously commented upon, is to be seen on both Reply cards (Figs 2 and 2A). This is that the bar between the '1' and '2' of ½d is much thinner and 1 mm shorter than that on the single ½d card.

#### References

- 1 Maddocks R.J., *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, Author, Oswestry 1996
- 2 Porter H.G., "The Cameroons" (Extended Series of Articles), *The Philatelist*, Robson Lowe Ltd., London 1956-1957



## KGVI Stamp Mysteries of West Africa

David R. Wright, MA

### Introduction

1937 to 1960 was, arguably, the 'golden age' of Commonwealth stamps (though some would put the start of the golden age much earlier). This article explores mysteries of the KGVI period for the West Africa area. I will focus on the mysteries: the bizarre, the extraordinary and the inexplicable. But the overall context is that this is an excellent period in stamp design and production. Here are my top mysteries from West Africa. Solve them by all means, if you can – but if you solve one, please add another mystery to replace it. We are all detectives at heart, and we need more mysteries to enhance our appreciation of the stamps of this era.

### 1 Why did Nigeria lose its pictorial stamps?

In 1936 - the year of KGV's death – a fine set of **twelve** different pictorial designs was issued for Nigeria. Yet in 1938 only two of these designs were retained. We lost all pictures of the north of the country. Even the palm trees on the low-value stamps of KGVI



are palms from the forested south of the country. The only pictorials are a forested southern road on the 2/6 and the gateway to the north on the 5/-. The north of Nigeria is a vast area which had its own stamps for many years. The Fulani cattle on the KGV 1/- and the fascinating Habe mosque on the 6d were fine evocations of the north; why were they deleted? Perhaps the King's head design was an attempt to save paper - a solution which might make sense until we come to Gold Coast (see below).



## 2...and why did Nigeria lose its high-value stamps?

Stamps of 10/- and even £1 value had been available for many years - even before the uniting of the three parts of Nigeria. So why were these values omitted in 1938, from the most populous colony in Africa?

## 3 Why a large format for Gold Coast stamps?

Gold Coast fared better than Nigeria; while the size of Nigeria's stamps was halved, the size of Gold Coast stamps was nearly doubled. Yet in KGV days, there was an innovative set of small-format pictorial stamps. Why was this successful design abandoned?



## 4...and why a castle for Gold Coast stamps?



There is no portrayal at all of the centre or north of this colony. And is a castle a tactful subject? A castle is fine for a ruler, but not for a ruled people. Does this castle sum up the imposition of European rule on African people? Could these stamps help to explain why Ghana was the first African colony to achieve independence?



## 5 Gold Coast 1948: why neglect the north?

The twelve excellent new stamps were warmly welcomed and are still popular. But only the lowly ½d stamp shows a scene from the northern half of the colony - hardly a balanced treatment. Of course, the north was the least-developed area, but well-chosen designs could have created more awareness of the savannah areas in the north, and given a more varied impression of the colony.



## 6 1948: Why a £1 Silver Wedding stamp for The Gambia?



In one sense, there is no mystery here; almost every colony had an excessively high value for the Silver Wedding, and it created anger at the time. But The Gambia had never had a stamp costing more than 10/-, so this was TWICE the expected cost. By contrast, Nyasaland had a 10/- SW stamp, even though there was a 20/- definitive. And Nigeria had a 5/- stamp - they could have actually found a 10/- stamp useful!

## 7 Why only two designs for Sierra Leone?

This colony had an excellent commemorative set in 1933 with no fewer than 13 designs (a record?). Several of these designs would have made excellent definitives - notably the 2d, 5d, 6d and 5/-.





The King's head could have been added at the left, as was done for Trinidad. Was this ever considered? As it is, we only have views of the capital city and of rice-harvesting - hardly an adequate summary of a mountainous colony.



*Editor's Note. This article is adapted from articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, with permission. David is co-author of the Philip's Children's Atlas, and his website is [www.dandjwright.co.uk](http://www.dandjwright.co.uk). Although light hearted in style there is a serious question in the manner these issues were commissioned which some of our members may be able to answer.*



## Printing Details of the 1922 St Helena 'Badge' Set

Barry Burns

Collectors of this attractive and popular issue will know that the set was issued in stages, with most values appearing in June 1922 and February 1923, and two new values (5d and 2/-) added during 1927. Three values (1/6, 2/6 & 5/-) were printed on paper with two different watermarks (Multiple Crown CA and Multiple Script CA). Several articles published during the past 30 years have given some information of the numbers issued from each printing. Edward Hibbert first published details in an article in *The London Philatelist (LP)* in 1975 (Ref. 1). These figures were taken from the De La Rue invoices, and were repeated in Hibbert's book (Ref. 2) four years later. However, there were several differences to his earlier work, and this point was raised by a Mr S.E. Papworth in a letter to the *LP* in 1979 (Ref. 3). A consequence of this was a more detailed setting out of the requisitions, dates and quantities invoiced, again in the *LP*, by Hibbert later that year (Ref. 4). It is these corrected details that I will refer to in the discussions later in this article.

In 1986 Roger West published Hibbert's corrected information in the *St Helena Supplement* (Ref. 5), and the same details were published in a re-working of West's several articles on this issue in the *South Atlantic Chronicle* in 2004 (Ref. 6). However, both of these authors included a printing which the invoices incorrectly ascribed to St Helena when it should have been to Ascension. I explained this error in a recent edition of *Cameo* (Ref. 7). In later editions of the *St Helena & Ascension Supplement* (Refs. 8, 9), Bernard Mabbett published details taken from the Requisition Books held in the Crown Agents Archive held at the British Library (BL). These made an interesting comparison with Hibbert's figures from the Invoices, although I believe it would have been more appropriate if Mabbett had quoted the numbers despatched rather than those ordered.

During the last couple of years I have been studying the Crown Agents Archive at the BL, and have consulted the Plate Issue Registers and Paper Issue Books in addition to the Requisition Books. Unfortunately, the only plate issue details extant are from 1923-1930 and 1935-1956, and even more infuriating is that all the paper issue records were destroyed during the bombing of De La Rue's premises in London in 1940. So very little information is available to confirm the details in the Requisition Books.

Table 1 shows the entries in the Requisition Books for the St Helena 1922 issue. I believe these full details have not previously been published, and I have tried to present them exactly as entered, using the (printed) column headings and the handwritten details as closely as possible - for example using the same format for dates etc. They should be self explanatory, and I have included the Requisition Book and Page Numbers for future researchers. The final two columns of the table are my own additions, to show the number of stamps (calculated from the sheets despatched), and to add notes as appropriate.

Table 1 Requisition Books

Req Book / Page	Req No	Description	Duty	NO. OF		Stamps per Sheet	Date Due	DESPATCHED		Remarks	Stamps Despatched	Notes
				Sheets	S stamps			Date	Quantity			
1 / 17	134/21	P&R Stamps New Issue	1d	250	15,000	60	Commence 18 Apl 22	16 May 22	398 sheets		23,880	a
			1d	*150	9,000	60						
	6d	166 <sup>40</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	10,000	60					265 sheets		15,900	
	6d	*100	6,000	60							13,920	
	1/-	133 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	8,000	60							10,080	
	1/-	*100	6,000	60							9,120	
	1/6	100	6,000	60							7,620	
	1/6	*80	4,800	60							6,480	
	2/6	100	6,000	60							6,720	
	2/6	*60	3,600	60							6,460	
	5/-	83 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	5,000	60							5,880	
	5/-	*36	2,160	60							117,660	b
	7/6	83 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	5,000	60							118,920	
	7/6	*25	1,500	60							119,940	
1 / 63	776	Post & Rev Stamps	1/2d	2,000	120,000	60	30 Nov 1922	3 Jan 23	1,961 sheets		117,660	b
			1/2d	2,000	120,000	60				1,982 sheets		118,920
	2d	2,000	120,000	60					1,999 sheets		119,940	
	3d	2,000	120,000	60					1,997 sheets		119,820	
	4d	2,000	120,000	60					2,020 sheets		121,200	
	8d	2,000	120,000	60					2,004 sheets		120,240	
	1d	2,000	120,000	60			4 April 1923	9 April	2,010 sheets	Urgent	120,600	c
	6d	1,000	60,000	60			23 Mar	13 March 25	1,040 sheets		62,400	c

Notes  
a Plus 404 Specimens each duty  
b Includes 416 Specimens each duty  
c No Specimens required

Continued on Page 167...

Table 1 (Continued) Requisition Books

...Continued from Page 166

Req No	Description	Duty	NO. OF		Stamps per Sheet	Date Due	DESPATCHED		Remarks	Stamps Despatched	Notes
			Sheets	Stamps			Date	Quantity			
921	P & R Stamps	2d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	26 Nov 1926	3.12.26	1,002	Urgent	60,120	d
		1/-	500	30,000				500	1/6, 2/6, 5/- N.W.M.	30,000	
		1/6	333 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	20,000				337	G.P.O. & Dealers	20,220	
		2/6	333 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	20,000				341	(1/6 6,000, 2/6 4,800, 5/- 2,400)	20,460	
		5/-	250	15,000				259		15,540	
936	P & R Stamps	5d	500	30,000	60 Rect	3 June 27	23 July 27	496	All New Duties	29,760	e
		2/-	333 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	20,000	60 Rect			346	GPO Specs required of each	20,760	
1005	P & R Stamp	2d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	16 July	11(?) July 28	1,020		61,200	f
1104	P & R Stamp	1d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	6 March 1930	25.3.30	1,013		60,780	f
1242	P & R Stamps	1/2d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	10 Feb 1932	17.2.32	1,035		62,100	f
		1d	1,000	60,000				1,031		61,860	
		2d	1,000	60,000				1,021		61,260	
1505	P & R Stamps	1/2d	500	30,000	60	24th April 1936	7.4.36	525	Stamps 31,500	31,500	f
		5d	100	6,000				105	Stamps 6,300	6,300	
1517	P & R Stamps	1/2d	500	30,000	60	16.6.36	12.6.36	500	Urgently Required	30,000	f,g
		2d	500	30,000				500	Full requirements, if possible, should be made to Colony	30,000	
		5d	250	15,000				250 <sup>50</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	The following quantities for Dealers should be retained:-	15,050	
									F.B. Smith 50 5d.		
									G3 to be informed when Dealers stamps are available		
1565	P & R Stamps	1/2d	1,000	60,000	60		9.10.36	1,050	Very urgently required	63,000	f
1575	P & R Stamps	1/2d	1,000	60,000	60	20th November 1936	17.12.36	999		59,940	f
		1d	500	30,000				515		30,900	
1585/1	P & R Stamps	1/2d	1,500	90,000	60	22nd January 1937	11.2.37	1,469	Urgently Required	88,140	f
		1d	1,000	60,000	60			1,001		60,060	
		1 1/2d	750	45,000	60			736		44,160	
		2d	500	30,000	60			474		28,440	
1615/1	P & R Stamps	7/6	100	6,000	60	24 April 1937	28.4.37	89	60 stamps from supply to be reserved for Mr Ellis & 60 for Selfridges, and G3 informed when ready,	5,340	f,g,h

Notes  
 d NWM = New Water Mark; 1/6, 2/6 & 5/- Plus 421 Specimens each duty  
 e Plus 422 Specimens each duty  
 f No Specimens required  
 g G3 = Internal Crown Agents Department  
 h 5,340 Includes the 2 sheets reserved for dealers

Table 2  
Plate Issue Register

Page	Req. No.	Description	PLATE			ISSUED			RETURNED			Made Up By	Specimens	Remarks
			Key No.	Duty	Set	To	By	Date	By	To	Date			
190	794	P&R	No 1	1d	60	Sharman	AWF	19.3.23	Sharman	?	21.3.23	Miss Granger	No Specimens	
190	COLOUR SCHEME	"	"	£1	"	M. Smith	AWF	5.7.23	Smith	LHG	7.7.23			
190	860	Postage & Revenue	No 1	6d	60	Sharman	LHG	27.2.25	Sharman	FP	2.3.25	Miss Cooper	"	
190	921	Postage & Revenue	No 1	2d	60	Johnson	LHG	16.11.26	Johnson	LHG	18.11.26	Helmer (?)	"	
	"	"	1	1/-	60	Johnson	LHG	18.11.26	Johnson	LHG	19.11.26	"	"	
	"	"	1	1/6	60	Johnson	LHG	15.11.26	Johnson	LHG	16.11.26	S. Maity (?)	Specs taken	N.W.M.
	"	"	1	2/6	60	Johnson	LHG	12.11.26	Johnson	LHG	15.11.26	Brown	"	N.W.M.
	"	"	1	5/-	60	Johnson	LHG	15.11.26	Johnson	LHG	15.11.26	Hutchings	"	N.W.M.
190	936	P&R	No 1 (Ship)	5d	60	Gale	AWF	14.6.27	Gale	WEC	16.6.27	"	"	New duty
	"	"	"	2/-	60	"	WEC	16.6.27	Gale	WEC	20.6.27	Brown	"	New duty
190	1005	"	Ship No 1	2d	60	Reis	WEC	3.7.28	Reis	WB	9.7.28	Brown	CI 1	

Table 2 shows the only information for this set still available from the Plate Issue Register. Again, I have tried to present the (handwritten) information as it was entered. The initials of the personnel responsible for the issuing and returning of the plates are difficult to decipher, and I have made my best guess of these. Also, I have put question marks alongside a couple of names in the 'Made Up By' column. Unfortunately the information is of little value, apart from confirming the dates of five of the Requisition Numbers.

A couple of interesting points emerge however. The plates were securely retained by the Crown Agents, and only issued for the duration of each printing. Most plates were returned within a day or two of issue - even on the same day for the 5/- duty, suggesting that De La Rue lost no time during the print runs. And what was the purpose of the 'Colour Scheme' for the £1 duty? I have a photocopy of this entry, and it clearly shows the '£' symbol, otherwise it could possibly have been for the colour trials and printers samples which were produced in various colours using the 1d value (probably from a small plate of six, 3x2, as described by Roger West - Ref. 10). As this entry had no Requisition Number, it did not appear in the Requisition Book, and as the paper issue records have not survived we may never know the purpose of this colour scheme. I have copies of Hibbert's personal notes taken from the De La Rue Correspondence Books and Day Books (held at the British Postal Museum and Archive), but they have no reference to it.

Table 3 shows the Requisition Numbers and stamps printed for each duty taken from the Requisition Books and Invoices. In each case I have subtracted (where necessary) the number of Specimens for each duty, and these are shown in a separate column. It is interesting to note that Specimens were provided for the three duties following the change of Watermark. Although these new printings are distinguishable by shade, it is unlikely these differences would have troubled the postal authorities. Incidentally, Hibbert was incorrect in stating on page 185 of his book (Ref. 2) that these printings, SG 107, 109 and 110, were not so overprinted. Note particularly Requisition Number 1614/1, which is now known to refer to an Ascension and not St Helena printing.

In comparing the numbers of stamps invoiced with the numbers delivered, I am struck with the close agreement. A cursory glance at the invoices with the numbers ordered had suggested a greater difference in many instances. After taking into account the number of Specimens, only Requisition 776 shows a

Watermark	Dut. #	Requisition	Specimens	Invoiced	Stamps	Despatched	Stamps	Difference
Multiple Crown CA	4d	776	416	30.12.22	120,720	3.1.23	120,784	+ 64
	1/6	134/1921	404	17.5.22	10,080	16.5.22	10,080	
	2/6	134/1921	404	17.5.22	9,120	16.5.22	9,120	
	5/-	134/1921	404	17.5.22	7,620	16.5.22	7,620	
	£1	134/1921	404	17.5.22	5,880	16.5.22	5,880	
Multiple Script CA	½d	776	416	30.12.22	117,180	3.1.23	117,244	+ 64
		1242		16.2.32	62,100	17.2.32	62,100	
		1505		9.4.36	31,500	7.4.36	31,500	
		1517		15.6.36	30,000	12.6.36	30,000	
		1565		14.10.36	63,000	9.10.36	63,000	
		1575		28.11.36	59,940	17.12.36	59,940	
		1585/1		11.2.37	88,140	11.2.37	88,140	
	1d	134/1921	404	17.5.22	23,880	16.5.22	23,880	
		794		12.4.23	120,120	9.4.23	120,600	+ 480
		1104		26.3.30	60,780	25.3.30	60,780	
		1242		16.2.32	61,860	17.2.32	61,860	
		1575		28.11.36	30,900	17.12.36	30,900	
		1585/1		11.2.37	60,060	11.2.37	60,060	
	1½d	776	416	22.12.22	118,440	3.1.23	118,504	+ 64
		1585/1		11.2.37	44,160	11.2.37	44,160	
	2d	776	416	30.12.22	119,460	3.1.23	119,524	+ 64
		921		2.12.26	60,120	3.12.26	60,120	
		1005		12.7.28	61,200	11.7.28	61,200	
		1242		16.2.32	61,260	17.2.32	61,260	
		1517		15.6.36	30,000	12.6.36	30,000	
		1585/1		11.2.37	28,440	11.2.37	28,440	
	3d	776	416	22.12.22	111,720	3.1.23	119,404	+ 64
		776		30.12.22	7,620			
	5d	936	422	23.7.27	29,760	23.7.27	29,760	
		1505		9.4.36	6,300	7.4.36	6,300	
		1517		15.6.36	15,000	12.6.36	15,050	
		1517		17.6.36	50	For Dealer F.B. Smith		
		1614/1		29.4.37	11,280	Ascension Printing		
	6d	134/1921	404	17.5.22	15,900	16.5.22	15,900	
		860		16.3.25	62,400	13.5.25	62,400	
	8d	776	416	22.12.22	119,760	3.1.23	119,824	+ 64
		1614/1		29.4.37	11,400	Ascension Printing		
	1/-	134/1921	404	17.5.22	13,920	16.5.22	13,920	
		921		2.12.26	30,000	3.12.26	30,000	
		1614/1		29.4.37	6,000	Ascension Printing		
	1/6	921	421	2.12.26	20,220	3.12.26	20,220	
	2/-	936	422	26.7.27	20,760	23.7.27	20,760	
	2/6	921	421	2.12.26	20,460	3.12.26	20,460	
	5/-	921	421	2.12.26	15,540	3.12.26	15,540	
		1614/1		29.4.37	5,700	Ascension Printing		
	7/6	134/2921	404	17.5.22	6,480	16.5.22	6,480	
		1615/1		29.4.37	5,340	28.4.37	5,340	
	10/-	134/1921	404	17.5.22	6,720	16.5.22	6,720	
	15/-	134/1921	404	17.5.22	6,460	16.5.22	6,460	

Table 3 Details Listed by Duty

consistent difference i.e. 64 more stamps despatched than invoiced. As this was the first release for these six duties, I believe this is a result of the numbers of stamps reserved for H.M. King George V, the British Museum (now BL), the various departments within the Crown Agents and GPO, and for De La Rue

themselves. Why this applies to just this single requisition, and to no others I have no idea, as all new issues had stamps reserved for such placement. The only other discrepancy is for Requisition 794, and is for a reprint of the One Penny duty. In this case the difference is greater (+480 or 8 sheets) for which there appears to be no obvious reason except a possible clerical error.

It can be seen that the Requisition Books confirm the details which Hibbert described in his later *LP* article (Ref. 4), except for his inclusion of requisition 1614/1 (for Ascension) and the numbers discussed in the previous paragraph. I believe that the invoices give the most accurate figure for the number of stamps released onto the market (via Post Offices and Dealers) for all the printings except Requisition 794. We will probably never know the actual figure for this printing. However, as most collectors are interested in the **maximum** number of stamps available, I prefer to use the Requisition Book figure for this printing.

Watermark	Duty	Requisition	Specimens	Despatched	Sheets	Stamps	Total Each Duty	
Multiple Crown CA	4d	776	416	3.1.23	2012	120,720	120,720	
	1/6	134/1921	404	16.5.22	168	10,080	10,080	
	2/6	134/1921	404	16.5.22	152	9,120	9,120	
	5/-	134/1921	404	16.5.22	127	7,620	7,620	
	£1	134/1921	404	16.5.22	98	5,880	5,880	
Multiple Script CA	½d	776	416	3.1.23	1953	117,180		
		1242		17.2.32	1035	62,100		
		1505		7.4.36	525	31,500		
		1517		12.6.36	500	30,000		
		1565		9.10.36	1050	63,000		
		1575		17.12.36	999	59,940		
		1585/1		11.2.37	1469	88,140	451,860	
	1d	134/1921	404	16.5.22	398	23,880		
		794		9.4.23	2010	120,600		
		1104		25.3.30	1013	60,780		
		1242		17.2.32	1031	61,860		
		1575		17.12.36	515	30,900		
		1585/1		11.2.37	1001	60,060	358,080	
	1½d	776	416	3.1.23	1974	118,440		
		1585/1		11.2.37	736	44,160	162,600	
	2d	776	416	3.1.23	1991	119,460		
		921		3.12.26	1002	60,120		
		1005		11.7.28	1020	61,200		
		1242		17.2.32	1021	61,260		
		1517		12.6.36	500	30,000		
		1585/1		11.2.37	474	28,440	360,480	
	3d	776	416	3.1.23	1989	119,340	119,340	
		936	422	23.7.27	496	29,760		
	5d	1505		7.4.36	105	6,300		
		1517		12.6.36	250 <sup>50</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	15,050	51,110	
	6d	134/1921	404	16.5.22	265	15,900		
		860		13.5.25	1040	62,400	78,300	
	8d	776	416	3.1.23	1996	119,760	119,760	
		134/1921	404	16.5.22	232	13,920		
	1/-	921		3.12.26	500	30,000	43,920	
		921	421	3.12.26	337	20,220	20,220	
	1/6	936	422	23.7.27	346	20,760	20,760	
	2/6	921	421	3.12.26	341	20,460	20,460	
5/-	921	421	3.12.26	259	15,540	15,540		
7/6	134/2921	404	16.5.22	108	6,480			
	1615/1		28.4.37	89	5,340	11,820		
10/-	134/1921	404	16.5.22	112	6,720	6,720		
15/-	134/1921	404	16.5.22	107 <sup>40</sup> / <sub>60</sub>	6,460	6,460		

Table 4 St Helena 1922 - 1937 'Badge' Printings

I therefore present readers with Table 4, which I believe gives the most accurate assessment for the numbers released to the public. I do not intend to discuss the identification of shades, varieties etc. from the various printings as I know of at least two students who are doing just that - hopefully now nearing a conclusion. In addition, we are not aware of the number of stamps officially destroyed when this issue was replaced in 1938 by the KGVI set. A quick search through the Archives at Jamestown failed to find this information, but numbers were probably high for the late printings, particularly the 1937 7/6d.

I would like to thank both David Beech and Paul Skinner, Curators of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, for their help in pointing me in the right directions, and for allowing the publication of the printing details from the Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive.

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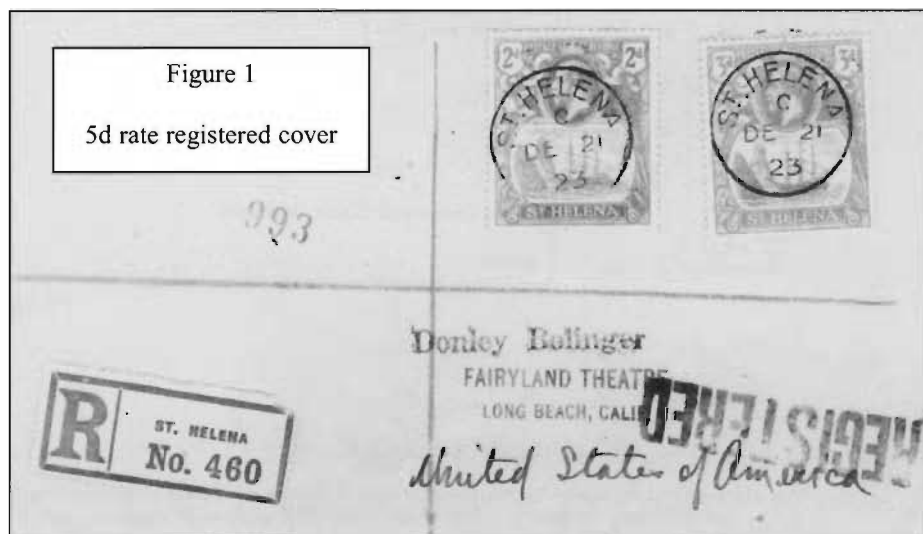
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- 4 Hibbert E., "1922 St Helena Colony's Badge Issue", *London Philatelist*, Volume 88 pp 147-150, RPSL, November-December 1979
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- 6 West R.B., "The 1922-1927 Badge Issue of St Helena", *South Atlantic Chronicle*, Volume XXVIII pp 8-14, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society, April 2004
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- 8 Mabbett B., "The St Helena Collections in the BL - The Requisition Books", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 16*, pp 27-30, WASC, July 1991
- 9 Mabbett B., "The St Helena Collections in the BL - The Requisition Books", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 17*, pp 18-24, WASC, January 1992
- 10 West R.B., "Badge Issue Extra Plate", *St Helena Supplement No.7*, p 23, WASC, January 1987

## St Helena 1923 Post Office Order Form

### Bill Thorpe

At first glance it was an ordinary registered envelope (*Figure 1 at 80%*) posted at St Helena in 1923. It had obviously been prepared in the USA by the wonderfully named Donley Bolinger Esq. of the Fairyland Theatre. No minor flaws on the stamps, but nice postmarks with three transit/receiving marks on the rear. The correct 5d franking represents 3d foreign rate plus 2d registration. Why then was its price a bit high?

The answer lay in the contents. A thin sheet of almost A4 paper turned out to be a Post Office form (*Fig. 2, p172 c80%*) which accompanied an order for stamps which were then being sold at face value, with no charge for handling or postage. The total cost of the order was 11/8d, which in modern terms is about 58p - not even the price of one ½d stamp nowadays.



The current catalogue price of the stamps is around £150, which, allowing for Gibbons over-pricing, makes a good return for 58p!! How the form has survived for over 80 years is nothing short of miraculous, and is the only one that I have seen. The colour descriptions are also interesting when compared to those in the current catalogue. The 6d. is described as mauve, and the 8d. as purple, whereas today they are bright purple and bright violet. If anyone has any knowledge of similar items then I would be interested, as they would make a useful addition to the study that I am currently researching on the 1922 Badge (Ship) Sets.

POST OFFICE, ST. HELENA,

**No.** 194      **Figure 2**  
**The Post Office Order Form**

11 December 1923

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your (un) Registered Letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October containing Money Order to the value of £ = 11/8 for Stamps which I enclose herewith as enumerated below, part of which are on the Envelope.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant, *W. S. [Signature]*  
Chief Clerk

Value of Sheet.	Number of Stamps sent.	Value of Stamps.	POSTAGE AND REVENUE ISSUE.	£	s.	d.
60		£ 1	Brick Red and black on Salmon ...			
45		15/-	Purple and Black on Blue ...			
30		10/-	Sage Green and Black on White ...			
22	10	7/6	Orange and Black on White ...			
15		5/-	Light Green and Black on Yellow ...			
7	10	2/6	Red and Black on Yellow ...		2	6
4	10	1/6	Deep Green and Black on Green ...		1	6
3		1/-	Brown and Black on White ...		2	0
2		8 Pence	Purple ...		1	8
1	10	6 do.	Mauve and Black on White ...		1	0
1		4 do.	Yellow and Black ...			8
15		3 do.	Blue ...		1	0
10		2 do.	Grey ...			8
7/6		1½ do.	Red ..			6
5		1 do.	Light Green and Black on White ...			4
2/6		½ do.	Black ...			2
Total...£				=	11	8

I have much regret that I cannot see the stamps before I see you. I will be happy to see them before I see you.

CC Doney, Bolinger & Co  
Fairyland Theatre  
Long Beach, Calif. U.S.A.

Note.—The obliteration of Stamps for purposes of sale is strictly forbidden. Post Office Orders, Bank of England Notes, and Gold only accepted. The exact NUMBER of Stamps required must be stated. All orders for Stamps be addressed to Postmaster.

# Tristan da Cunha 1935 Silver Jubilee

**Barry Burns**

from articles and information by **Brian M. Cartwright FRPSL,**  
**Neil Donen, Ron Peters and Harvey Russell**

*This is basically a reprint of an article by Brian Cartwright which was initially published in Stamp Mail (Ref. 1). The table was compiled by Neil Donen, and appeared in a brief article by Harvey Russell in The Overprinter (edited by Ron Peters, Ref. 2). Both Brian and Ron have agreed to this reproduction in Cameo.*

On 7 May 1935 the Great Britain Silver Jubilee set of four stamps was issued, ½d, 1d, 1½d, and 2½d, printed by Harrison and Sons in photogravure in sheets of 120 (20 rows of 6). Apart from the set issued for Great Britain, various designs or overprints on the original design accounted for the 250 different stamps issued throughout the Commonwealth to commemorate the event, thereby becoming the first of many omnibus issues.

Tristan da Cunha was not one of the issuing countries; they joined the omnibus system with the 1953 Coronation set and it was with some trepidation, therefore, that I viewed the four Jubilee stamps which formed part of a schoolboy collection offered for possible auction at a valuation day I was holding in Wolverhampton in the Autumn of 1990. I assured the vendor, Mr 'W', that the four stamps overprinted 'Tristan da Cunha' and individually numbered were not an official issue, but I would endeavour to ascertain their provenience and offer them for sale in a future auction.



Figure 1 ½d value, number 8

Mr 'W' could only tell me that the Reverend Wilde was in England on leave from Tristan da Cunha to attend the Jubilee celebrations in London, and at his instigation a number of these stamps were professionally overprinted, but on which values and how many of each value was not known. The Reverend was staying with Mr 'W's grandparents and before departing for Tristan after the celebrations he gave these four stamps to the vendor's father stating that they could be worth money in years to come. On my return to the London office I consulted Mr George Crabb's book on Tristan (Ref. 3) where the listing of clergymen states:- February 1934 - August 1940 Rev. Harold Wilde and on page 335 the paragraph:- 'Some years ago it was reported that two 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps had been seen overprinted "Tristan da Cunha" this was carried out "properly" and not "by hand". I have not seen these items, the date is too late for them to be connected with the Rev Partridge's "steel die" operation and are recorded here to perpetuate an earlier reference.'

I wrote a note to George and enclosed the single No 8, vertical pair Nos 17/18 ½d's and single 1d No 6 which Mr 'W' had submitted and asked George for his thoughts/opinions. By return George sent a brief note covering the following letter entitled 'A note relating to the 1d 1935 Silver Jubilee Stamp overprinted "Tristan da Cunha 16".'

*During the Winter of 1942/3 I was in training at HMS Royal Arthur at Skegness, Lincolnshire. Whilst there I organised a chess club with the assistance of Padre Wilde, a RN Chaplain. Before leaving the establishment Padre Wilde gave me the Jubilee stamp as a mark of appreciation for running the club. He told me that he had for many years been stationed on Tristan where he had acted as administrator - performing the roles of postmaster, schoolmaster, doctor and padre to the islanders. At the time of the Jubilee he said that, as postmaster, he had issued some of these stamps. (I believe he said he had issued 16 - all of 1d denomination - and the specimen here is marked '16').*

The letter continues in a lighter vein about the Rev Wilde's visit to the Jubilee route and is signed William Ward, Dorking, Surrey.

Mr 'W's stamps were offered in Phillips' Commonwealth sale on 19 September 1991 and sold in three lots at £520, £520 and £550 - they had indeed become worth money in years to come.

After the catalogue had gone to print I found an article by Alastair Hackett in *The Silver Jubilee Issue of Great Britain* which stated on page 44, appendix 5, 'The only examples of these items known to the author appeared in auction in September 1978. The overprint reads "Tristan da Cunha 19" (or '20') and only the ½d and 1d values have appeared bearing such overprints.



Figure 2

Vertical pair ½d value, numbers 17 & 18

Within a few weeks of the auction another vendor, having seen the prices realised for the four copies in the sale, sent in **seven** copies he had purchased from a dealer years previously to add to his GB overprints collection but thought that the cash might be useful if these prices were sustained. His stamps were ½d Nos 25, 26, 31, 32, and 1d Nos 23, 24, 25, and were offered in Phillips' Commonwealth sale on 5 December 1991, totalling £1570.

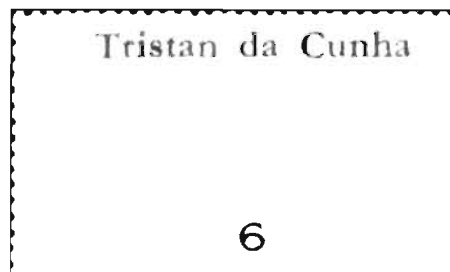


Figure 3

The 1d value, number 6 (left) and with the design filtered out to show the overprint (right)

Since then I have only managed to discover one further copy, this being in the stock of the Postal History dealer Mr Chris Rainey. It is an example of the ½d No 16 tied to piece by two strikes of the Tristan cachet type V with the endorsement 'Good Friends/Good Books/Good Music/. H Wilde/Chaplain/19/11/41'.

With the aforementioned information we can be certain that at least 32 ½d and 31 1d stamps were overprinted, giving a minimum total of 63, and with 15 examples accounted for, where are the other 48?

*This concludes Brian's article. Table 1 (p175), published in The Overprinter earlier this year, brings the list of recorded examples up to date - Barry.*

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- 3 Crabb G., *The History and Postal History of Tristan da Cunha*, George Crabb, Epsom 1980

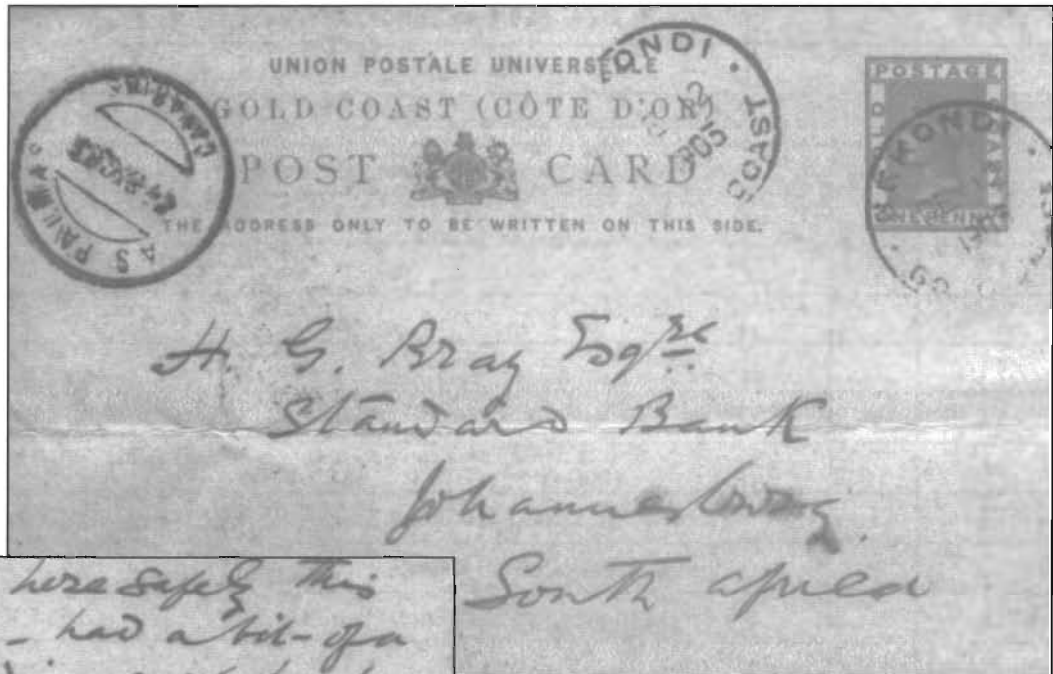
Number	½d	1d	Notes
1			
2			
3			
4		x	On Cover. Sold SG November 2003
5			
6		x	Phillips Auction 19.9.91 (£550)
7			
8	x		Phillips Auction 19.9.91 (£520)
9	x		On Cover. Sold at Auction, either 1992 or 1998
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16	x	x	½d on Cover, in stock of Chris Rainey. 1d gift from Rev Wilde to Mr Ward in 1943
17	x		Phillips Auction 19.9.91 Vertical Pair with No 18 (£520)
18	x		Phillips Auction 19.9.91 Vertical Pair with No 17 (£520)
19	x	x	½d Ron Peters, 1d Stamp News 29.5.86 Letter from Williams, Western Auction 1443
20		x	Hacket Book p44
21			
22			
23		x	Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£340 with ½d No 31)
24		x	Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£520, with ½d No 26)
25	x	x	Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£480, ½d + 1d)
26	x		Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£520, with 1d No 24)
27		x	GSM 'Through the Letterbox', Sold SG 19.5.2000
28		x	Phillips Auction December 1992, Warwick & Warwick Auction 8.6.2005
29		x	Phillips Auction December 1992
30			
31	x		Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£340, with 1d No 23)
32	x		Phillips Auction 5.12.91 (£230)
33	x		
34	x		Phillips Auction December 1992
35	x		Phillips Auction December 1992, Warwick & Warwick Auction 8.6.2005
36	x		GSM 'Through the Letterbox', Sold SG 19.5.2000

Table 1 Tristan da Cunha 1935 Silver Jubilee Overprints

# Routings from West Africa

Ross Debenham

I enclose copies of two interesting earlier post cards I have picked up over the years which to me have interesting routings after leaving West Africa, and some interesting information with regards to travel to the area.



arrived here safely this morning - had a bit of a jolt landing - surf boat style - didn't get over though or lose any baggage. We leave for Tarkwa in the morning by train - 86 miles. The country here is very pretty just like the Tweed for all the world - plenty of timber and scrub - Rex says it is better inland - he is in good trim & sends love. Had a good trip out - called at Sierra Leone & posted you a card there. It is pretty hot here - but no worse than the Tweed so I reckon it is not too bad. Will write soon from Tarkwa. There are no white women in this town - rather funny not seeing any. Love from Sekondi 11-12-03 L. G. B.

Figures 1 and 2

Card from Sekondi to Johannesburg via Las Palmas

The first postcard (Figures 1 and 2) is from Sekondi, Gold Coast to South Africa postmarked 12 December 1903. For some reason it was also postmarked Las Palmas in the Canary Islands in transit.

I believe that I have read somewhere that mail from West Africa was transported by a packet bound for England, as far as the Canary Islands, and left there for onward transport by another packet going south to South Africa.

I am showing the message on the reverse as the writer talks about stopping at Sierra Leone on the way, coming ashore in a surf boat from the ship at Sekondi, and the lack of white females there.

Figures 3 and 4

Card from Bathurst  
to Panama Canal Zone

The second card (Figures 3 and 4) is from Bathurst, Gambia, on 23 November 1909, to Canal Zone, Panama.

It is postmarked in transit at Dakar, Senegal; Pernambuco, Brazil, and somewhere indecipherable in between. It finally arrived at the addressee on 12 February 1910.

I suppose that mail from The Gambia to the Canal Zone would have been as scarce as hen's teeth anyway, so I suppose they got it there whichever way they could.



I hope these cards may be of interest to Society Members, who may be able to enlighten me that these were the normal way of transporting mails between these locations.



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<b>ASCENSION.</b> 1924 8d Badge with <i>cleft rock</i> tied to piece by REGISTERED oval d.s.'8 AU 33'. SG 17c. £160	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1880 1/- yellow-green corner block of eighteen. Very fine mint. SG 30. £275
<b>GAMBIA.</b> 1935 1/- Jubilee marginal copy with <i>short extra flagstaff</i> (Plate 2 : R.2/1). Unmounted mint. SG 146b. £200	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1937 1½d deep carmine-red with <i>cleft rock</i> . Very fine mint. Rare. SG 99ec. £500
<b>GHANA.</b> 1957 2½d corner pair <i>imperf horizontally</i> and with <i>misplaced vertical perfs.</i> Unmounted mint. SG 182a var £200	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1927 2/6 with <i>broken mast</i> optd 'SPECIMEN'. Very fine mint. Rare - just 7 possible! SG 109a sp. £550
<b>GOLD COAST.</b> 1897 imperf 'IMPERIUM' trial in dull mauve and carmine on gummed paper as 1898 1d value (SG 27). £250	<b>SIERRA LEONE.</b> 1935 5d Jubilee block with <i>extra flagstaff</i> (Plate 1 : R.9/1) used on cover to UK. SG 183a. £140
<b>LAGOS.</b> 1886 set of three optd 'SPECIMEN' (Type D12). Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 27s/29s. £300	<b>SIERRA LEONE.</b> 1935 1/- Jubilee with <i>short extra flagstaff</i> (Plate 2 : R.2/1). Unmounted mint. SG 184b. £250
<b>LAGOS.</b> 1887 1/- green and black with manuscript 'Specimen'. Very fine mint (ex DLR archives). SG 38sp. £250	<b>TOGO.</b> 1915 set of 13 (both 3d) each with <i>small 'F'</i> . Very fine mint. Remarkable set! SG H34a/46a. £400
<b>N.NIGERIA.</b> 1905 2½d, 6d and 2/6 in blocks of four each used with c.d.s. Some faults but scarce multiples. SG 23,25,27. £250	<b>TOGO.</b> 1915 ½d corner block of 30 with 'CUPATION', 'CCUPATION', 2 x <i>small 'F'</i> . Very fine mint. SG H34c,e,f. £160

*The above is a selection from my extensive British Commonwealth stock. All items available on approval (subject unsold). Major credit cards accepted. Illustrated lists on request (please advise collecting interests). Wants lists invited.*

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## Ascension



SG 38 1938 ½d perf 13½. Part imprint example, R10/3 'wart on nose'. VFUM £12	SG 38b 1944-53 ½d perf 13 block of 4, R2/2 frame re-entry, R1/1 spot over horizon. VFUM £35
SG 38 1938 ½d perf 13½. Top marginal vertical pair, R2/2 re-entered frame. VFUM £50	SG 39ca 1949 printing of 1d perf 14, complete sheet including R6/4 'Mountaineer' flaw. VFUM £90
SG 38b 1944 ½d violet, R2/2 frame re-entry. VFUM £20	SG 39d 1949 printing of 1d Three Sisters, complete sheet including R4/6 re-entry and other doublings VFUM £45
SG 38b 1944 ½d perf 13 block of 4, R3/2 no flaw, R4/2 scratch in left '2'. VFUM £10	SG 40 1938 1½d perf 13½. Positional block of 4, R5/6 medallion re-entry and 6/6 re-entered shed. VFUM £30
SG 38b 1944 printing of ½d. Positional block of 6, R5/1 scratch into 'E'. VFUM £10	SG 40ba 1944 1½d vermilion, perf 13, with R5/1 davit flaw. VFM £70
SG 38b 1944 printing of ½d. Imprint block of 4, R9/4 constant frame colour left of medallion and 10/3 'wart on nose'. VFUM £12	SG 40db 1949 1½d black and carmine block of 4 VFUM £20
SG 38b 1944-53 ½d perf 13. Block of 4, R8/3 'buoy' under 'OR'. VFUM £9	SG 40db 1949 1½d Bottom half-sheet with imprint and Plate numbers Side selvages a little reduced. VFUM £120
SG 38b 1944 ½d perf 13. Marginal strip of 3 with R3/4 'torpedo' flaw. VFUM £35	
SG 38ba 1953 printing of ½d. Corner block of 6, R2/2 re-entry, 2/3 long 'E'. Hinged on selvage only. VFM £60	

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*Sierra Leone: 1889 (December), envelope addressed to Evreaux with good "MISSENT-TO/ SIERRA-LEONE" instructional marking, Freetown c.d.s. on reverse, fine.*



*St. Helena: 1931 (July), envelope sent Registered to Ryde franked 1/6d tied by code 'A' c.d.s., fine.*

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