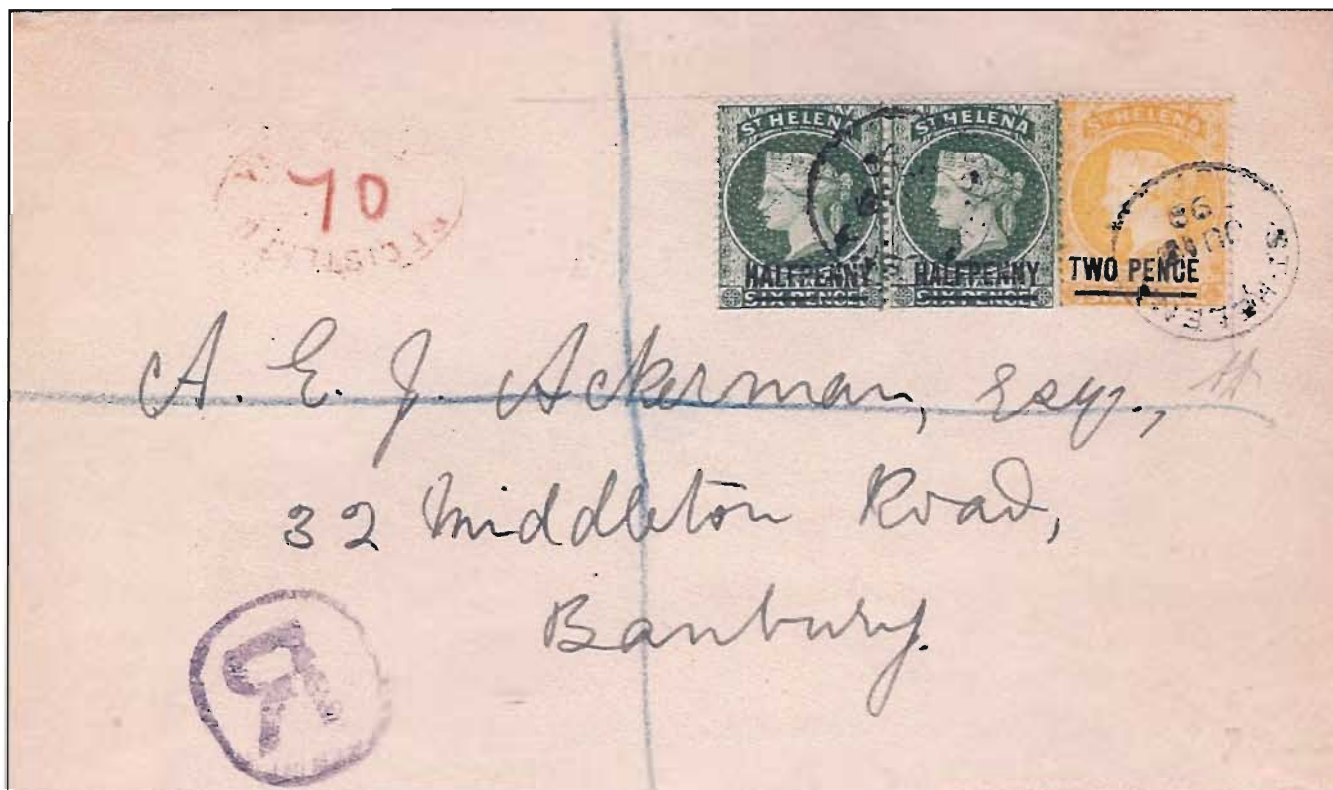


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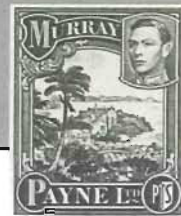


The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3
WHOLE NUMBER 84

OCTOBER 2011



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| GAMBIA. 1902 2/- slate and orange with <i>dented frame</i> . Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 54a. £400 | ST HELENA. 1876 2d yellow (Perf 14 x 12½) block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 22. £700 |
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| GOLD COAST. 1883 (CA) 1d blue. Very fine mint with the characteristic yellowed gum. Rare. RPS Cert. SG 10. £550 | SIERRA LEONE. 1963 3/- on 3d block of four including '1895' for '1859' (R.3/3). Very fine mint. SG 282a. £160 |

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Editorial

On page 190 I am publishing an article that has nothing directly to do with philately, but deals with computer use, or more correctly, using software to achieve desired results . Philip Quirk kindly offered to write this short article when we met at Midpex in July, following several problems he had recently experienced in typesetting the recent 'Rose' Gambia book. I found much of direct interest to me as an editor, and am sure that some of our readers can also benefit from his guidance. As the Circle moves towards greater use of technology in publishing, for instance on CD/DVD and the web, more of our members will be exposed to these sort of problems.

I am aware of course that many (most?) of you will think this type of article should not be published in a philatelic journal, so I would welcome your views on this matter. If, however, there is sufficient support for 'how to' topics of interest to philatelists– not necessarily involving computers - we will try to include the occasional article in future.

**The next issue will be edited by Rob,
datelined January 2012 and the
copy deadline is 1 January 2012**



Barry Burns

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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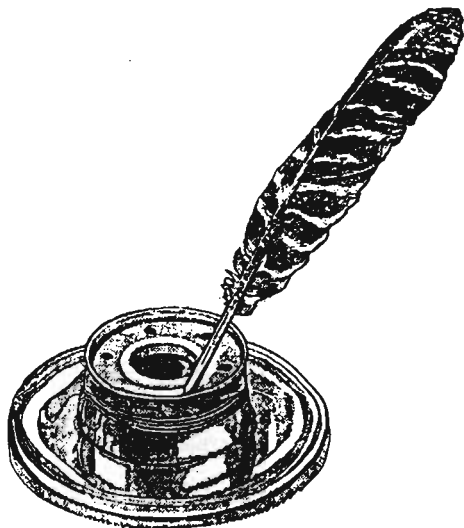
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Front Cover

12 June 1899 'Ackerman' cover from St Helena to Banbury
Larger style of handwriting, registration No. 70, with reversed 'R' in purple

See page 166



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

Surface Mail from Cameroons to Togo, 1915

Dear Barry,

In the above article by John Mayne & Rob May (*Cameo* 83, p91) the authors state that in October 1915 British mail boats had yet to start calling at Lome. This is contrary to the facts; indeed the log of RMS *Appam* (Ref. 1) records that she left Duala/Suellaba, Cameroons on 17.2.15 homeward bound, with a call at Lome, Togo on 1.3.15. Because of war-time exigencies there were undoubtedly earlier and later calls by British mail boats at Lome on both outward and homeward voyages.

Reference

- 1 Maddocks Bob, "RMS *Appam* - The Log of 1915 WWI Sailing....", *Cameo*, Volume 78 pp151-152, WASC, October 2009

Bob Maddocks
Oswestry

Anglo-Boer War Cover Front to St Helena

Dear Editors,

Klaus Hahn forwarded to me this article which was published in *Cameo* 82 p50, and I can supply the following information.

The POW is Jacobus Nicolaas Marthinus Pretorius, Prisoner No. 4091, aged 30 years from the farm Blesbokfontein district Potchefstroom, who was captured at Paardeberg on 27 February 1900 together with his brothers Pieter Hermanus Pretorius 4092 aged 33 years and Willem Jacobus Pretorius 4093 aged 40 years all from the same farm, and at time of capture serving with the D Van Graan Commando.

Being a cover front it is difficult to say how the letter got to St Helena, save that it could have had stamps on the reverse, and is most probably from his wife in Potchefstroom.

Colonel J.B. Leefe RMA was the Commander of the British Forces on St Helena from the time of the arrival of the Boer Prisoners of War on 10 April 1900 until 7 December 1900 when he was invalid home to England. He was well disposed to the Boer POWs and allowed many of them to take up employment as servants and in other capacities in Jamestown on a type of parole. These POWs received their post via his office, and is the reason why their post was addressed c/o Col. Leefe.

I have been unable to identify the Roscher Censor. There is a Boer POW Adrian Roscher taken prisoner at Harrismith, but not the same man.

Bernard du Plessis
South Africa

Gold Coast WWI Censor Tapes

Hello Barry,

In the June 2011 issue of *Cameo* pp83-84 Robert Nelson reports two previously unreported Gold Coast WWI reseal labels. I can report that I have two covers both with the L3C reseal label, both to the same addressee in Mannedorf near Zurich, Switzerland and both appear to be from the same sender. The details are as follows:

- 1 2½d cancelled WINNEBAH JUN 18 1917, backstamped (under the reseal label) ACCRA JUN 20 1917, backstamped MANNEDORF 22.VII.17
- 2 2½d cancellation name is unreadable but believed to be WINNEBAH JUL 16 1917, backstamped (under the reseal label) ACCRA JUL 17 1917, backstamped MANNEDORF 1.IX.17

Robin Davis
Reading

Nigeria Benue N20 Spelling Mistake

Dear Barry,

I have just received a set of pairs of the four

stamps issued by Nigeria earlier this year as 'Benue State'.

The lowest value stamp - 20 Naira - has a spelling mistake (see below). Instead of 'Katsina Ala River', the stamps say 'Kastina Ala River'.

Simon Heap
Oxford



Ammendments for Sierra Leone 1963 Postal Commemorations

Hi Barry,

Re. the article on the varieties to be found on these issues (*Cameo* 81, October 2010 pp412-415), I can add the following examples:

- SG 273** R1/11 nc Slightly dropped second 'a' in Africa
- SG 274** R1/4 & R4/4 nc Raised 'ca' in Africa
- SG 280** R9/5 & R12/1 Wide gap between Airmail and in West Africa; ca. 2½ mm compared to normal gap of 1 to 1½ mm
- SG 281** R9/5 & R12/1 Wide gap between Airmail and in West Africa; ca. 2½ mm compared to normal gap of 1 to 1½ mm

Acknowledgements
Peter Rolfe
Roger West

Robin Peters
Fakenham

Togo Postal Stationery Cards, 1914

John Mayne received this message, and agrees.

Dear John,

I noticed John Mayne's article in the June 2011 *Cameo* (pp117-118) and thought I would mention it in the 'In the Other Journals' column of *Vorläufer*. When I was writing the note, I noticed you said the 5Pf single card overprinted 'One Halfpenny' was on Mi.14. Actually, I think the base card is Mi.17. My copies of Mi.BBP1 (the 5Pf card overprinted 'Anglo-French Occupation One Halfpenny') have the vertically-divided address side with the 'Postkarte' to the right of the dividing line, and hence are overprinted on Mi.17. Also Mi.17 is watermarked, as are my copies of Mi.BBP1. Mi.14 is not watermarked.

From the pictures in your article, the rare 'One Penny' overprints on 5Pf cards are also on Mi.17.

John Kevin Doyle
Lisle,IL, USA

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

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- Biafra - Dudley Prestedge
- Cameroons - Marty Bratzel
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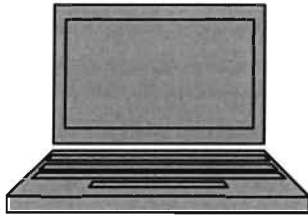
Then please try visiting the West Africa Study Circle Web Site at:

<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

where you can search the whole *Cameo* index for volumes 1 to 11

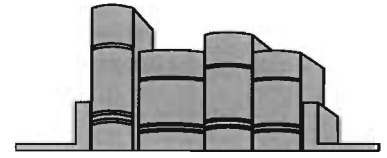


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Sources

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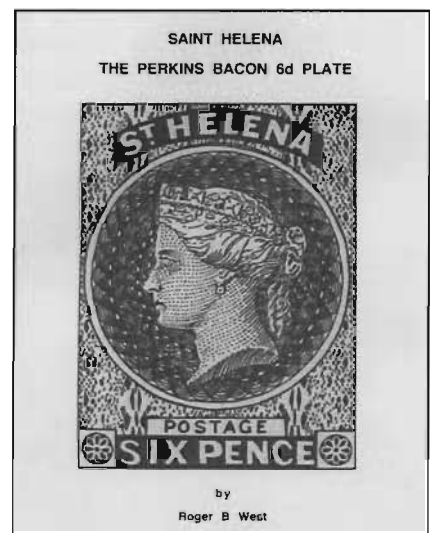


- 📖 *Saint Helena, The Perkins Bacon 6d Plate*, by Roger B. West, published by Avion Thematics, 1st edition 2011, No ISBN. 47 pages with 116 illustrations, A4, card covers with acetate overlay, ring bound. For price and ordering details please see advertisement page 168.

Reviewed by Barry Burns

Roger B. West, a long-time member of the Circle and enthusiastic researcher into the stamps of St Helena, realised almost thirty years ago that if all his work was to be published in *Cameo* there would be very little space left for anything else!

So with the backing of the Circle he started publishing the *St Helena Supplement* (later to include Ascension); the first issue of which was published alongside *Cameo* in July 1983, and distributed to all members expressing an interest with the island. With himself as Editor, during the next nine issues he published some very detailed studies, many of which were of the Perkins Bacon plate. This had first been used in September 1855 and was only retired in June 1895 after printing nearly two and a half million stamps. Not bad for an outlay of £152.10.0d! Some of the articles were to be later reprinted in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and the former *Stamp Collecting Weekly*.



Still a collector, Roger has now decided to present his research and study to a new and wider audience with this booklet. In similar format to his 2007 publication *St Helena - The Forgeries of the Perkins Bacon 6d Plate*, the 14 chapters of this new work guide the collector through the following topics: the laying down of the plate including the various transfer flaws, plate markings and varieties, the surcharges including methods used and the ensuing varieties, plating the stamps using watermarks and a very clearly presented 'fingerprint' method. The cancelled remainders, together with their forged circular date stamps are covered, but not the forgeries of the stamps themselves which were described in Roger's earlier work. There are many illustrations, diagrams and tables, all of which are very clearly presented and printed.

Although each chapter is basically a reprint of his earlier material, Roger has updated where necessary, re-worked the Introduction, and linked the different Chapters to form a coherent work. It is therefore a very useful addition to the library, even for those who still possess the original, well-thumbed *Supplements*.

I have just a couple of minor quibbles. Apart from the first sixpence value, there were no details of the various printings, invoices and issue dates, although a summary of them is provided. I now understand, however, that Roger does intend to include them in the published edition. To illustrate the surcharge varieties he has used diagrams rather than scans from actual stamps. Although very clear, this reviewer would have probably preferred the latter, or possibly both? Comparing Roger's list of recorded watermark varieties with the most recent Gibbons catalogue (p138) there are a couple of discrepancies, hardly surprising as newly recorded examples are still being discovered. My advice is to check all watermarks on these issues. There were quite a number of typo errors in the review copy, but no doubt these will be rectified in the final work.

Despite the above slight criticisms, I thank Roger for making these important studies available again in such a useful format, and can thoroughly recommend this work to all collectors of these extremely interesting and attractive stamps.



Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue - St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha, 4th edition published 2011 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., ISBN-10: 0-85259-802-5, ISBN-13: 978-0-85259-802-3, 91p + 37p information & advertisements etc., 240x170mm, soft cover. Price £14.95 + p&p from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH.

Reviewed by Barry Burns



Two features of this recently published catalogue are immediately apparent. The title has been changed from *St Helena & Dependencies (SHD)* to *St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha*, presumably to attract those collectors not understanding the political status of the three islands. In addition, the size has been reduced from A4 and is now the same as some other modern SG 'Area' catalogues and the *GB Concise*.

It is described as 'lie flat' although this does require a bit of encouragement. Nevertheless it is attractively presented, well printed (except for a couple of pages in the introduction which were doubly printed in my copy!) and with full colour virtually throughout. Prices have been updated to the 2012 (not 2011 as stated in the publicity) *Commonwealth & British Empire Catalogue (CBE)* for issues to 1970, with later issues having been specially repriced. St Helena and

Tristan are covered to April 2011 and Ascension to July 2011 (not 2010 as in the publicity!) One feature that I would like to see from *CBE* is a list of new additions - apart from new issues - and catalogue number changes since the last edition. It is only by studying every page that the reader discovers that, for example, in Ascension the 1924 8d 'Shamrock' flaw is now listed (17d, £275/475 m/u), as is the St Helena 1923 8d with watermark inverted (105w, unpriced/£1500). One improvement over *CBE* is that illustrations of the omnibus issues are shown, which saves having to search the larger catalogue for Antigua or Omnibus issues - particularly the 1935 Silver Jubilee varieties. However it is disappointing that SG have still not re-introduced the varieties and plate numbers etc. that were a feature of the *Elizabethan* catalogue in the 1970s.

What of the pricing? The following comparisons refer to the 2011 *CBE* for issues to 1970, and the 3rd edition (2007) of *SHD* for later ones. Prices for GB stamps used in Ascension are virtually all increased, generally about 10%. Surprisingly this does not apply so much to the cachets on Tristan covers, where only a few have moved, e.g. C3 'from £275' to 'from £300'. I think the word 'from' is significant here. For Ascension stamps, most of the many varieties on the KGV and KGVII issues are up although in most cases the basic stamps are static. Most of the 'Specimen' sets are up, between 5-10%, but perhaps surprisingly not the 1922 set. In KGVII the more common 'Davitt' flaws are static, but the scarcer examples e.g. 40ea, 45b, 45ca, are up, as are the 'Mountaineer' flaws - a case of collectors abandoning the Pier for Green Mountain?

In St Helena, only the scarcer early QV stamps are up in price, although many varieties, including watermark variations, are also up. For KEVII and KGV there are small rises for many basic stamps including the Specimens. The popular 1911 1d 'all red' wharf design is now fully listed (71s, £375 up from £325) rather than just mentioned as a footnote. Both sets of the 1922 'Badges' see a good number of increases, and not just among the varieties. Bill Thorpe has informed me that there is a howler beneath the description of the 'Torn Flag' where it is said the flaw was retouched for the printing invoiced in March 1925 (the 2nd 6d printing), but this does have the torn flag. Strange, because earlier editions were correct when they gave the date of retouch as December 1926! KGVII issues have little to report, but in QEII the infamous 1961 'Tristan Relief' set of four is up £500 mint and £250 used, now standing at £7000/3000.

Tristan da Cunha has a few rises of £5 or so in the early definitive sets. For more modern issues of all three islands there is little change, although a few commemoratives have been adjusted slightly down. This of course represents a drop in value in real terms as we are comparing prices four years apart. However, most of the scarcer watermark varieties are slightly up, as are a number of issues from the 1990s and later.

To sum up, this is a worthwhile update, particularly to those collecting modern issues, or who do not wish to purchase *BCE*. I found the smaller size convenient, although still too large for the average pocket. One feature I do appreciate is the form requesting reader's comments - I will certainly be filling this in!

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 may feel might be of interest to other members. Articles which we hope to reproduce in *Cameo* at a future date are not listed here.

London Philatelist, Volume 120, number 1386, June 2011
pp186-190, John Sacher CBE FRPSL, *Sierra Leone Registered Mail 1853-1877*

Journal of the France & Colonies PS, Volume 61, number 2, June 2011
p46, Book review *Timbres Fiscaux des Colonies Françaises* (reviewer Marty Bratzel)
pp65-67 Marc Parren *La Poste Senegal Meter Stamps*
p73 John Mayne *Togo - Recent Discoveries*

Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, Volume 38, number 3, April 2011
pp127-128, Marc Parren *Postal Censorship in Mali at the Time of Independence*

Air Mail News, Volume 54, whole number 214, August 2011
pp9-10 and front cover, John C Symons, *Bombay to New York 4 June 1940*. This article explores the genesis of the Horseshoe Route after the fall of France. See also a 105 page report published on the web by Robert Clark, "The Horseshoe Route: June 1940 - February 1942", www.nzstamps.org.uk/horseshoe as a series of PDF files

South Atlantic Chronicle, Volume 35, whole number 134, June 2011
p7, Morris Taber *The GB Queen Victoria Penny Lilac of 1881 used on Ascension Mail*

Geosix, (Journal of KGVI Collectors Society), Whole number 241, September 2011
p12 & colour cover, Jeremy Martin FRPSL *King George VI Sierra Leone Postal Stationery - A censored, registered internal use of the two pence plum envelope*



The Committees & Delegations of Free France across the World

Bertrand Sinais (trans. R. Martin)

This article appeared in the Bertrand Sinais auction catalogue of 6 May 2011. Jeremy Martin met Bertrand at a RPSL meeting and he gave his permission to reproduce it in Cameo, edited to deal only with those countries covered by WASC. The translation is by Roger Martin, Jeremy's brother.

The Rallying Call of 18 June 1940 was followed the very next day by the dispatch of a telegram from General de Gaulle to all French groups abroad: *I invite you to nominate a representative who will be in direct contact with me. Telegraph me the name and status of this representative. Sympathy*

Diplomats and civil servants generally preferred to wait, then rallied to the Vichy regime, but other Frenchmen, refusing to accept defeat, formed, in all four corners of the world, associations which, under various names, followed the same aim: helping General de Gaulle and hastening the Liberation.

In practice this aim was formalised by the publication of bulletins and brochures, maintaining French culture by taking over French educational establishments abroad, in particular the schools of the Alliance Française, by recruiting and sending volunteers to the Free French Forces, and by collection of donations to be sent on to General de Gaulle (for example 2 million francs just for the month of February 1941). The de Gaulle committees also counteracted the influence of Vichy diplomats.

The Free French Committees were semi-official groupings that took on the role of supporting and publicising the work of General de Gaulle, and they should not be confused with the Delegations of Free France which were genuine embassies of Free France run by delegates nominated by General de Gaulle himself.

The majority of the Committees and Delegations had postal markings and headed envelopes. We intend to list those we know, putting them in context as far as possible.

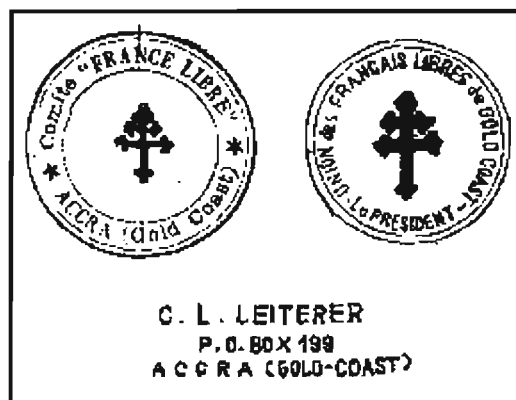
Gambia

Lt. Montezer, coming from Dakar, formed a Committee at Bathurst. This committee, which took the name of 'Free French Centre', was chaired by M. Rives. He ensured intensive propaganda in this British colony surrounded by Vichy French West Africa.

Gold Coast

On 23 June 1940, only five days after the Rallying Call by General de Gaulle, Charles-Lucien Leiterer established one of the first Free French Committees in Accra: the 'Free French Union of Gold Coast'. As in Gambia, Gold Coast abutted the Colonies of Vichy French West Africa, and the serious efforts of Charles-Lucien Leiterer were not un-noticed. They earned him a death sentence in absentia from the Vichy Government. Handstamps and headed letters bear witness to his activities (Figure 1). All the handstamps were struck in violet on the front and back of letters.

Figure 1: three forms of cachet used by the Free French Union of Gold Coast



Nigeria



Figure 2

In this other British colony, surrounded by Vichy French West Africa, a committee called 'The Free French of Nigeria' was established on 25 June 1940 at Lagos and chaired by M. Pagano. The money raised was used mainly to equip Leclerc's soldiers with weapons and to buy equipment for Radio Brazzaville.

The committee used one violet handstamp, quite crude, with the Cross of Lorraine / France Libre / Lagos (Figure 2).

Saint Helena

Georges Colin, Keeper of the French Domain of Saint Helena, joined Free France on 23 June 1940. His 'Free French Committee' at Longwood comprised only himself, his wife, the two custodians and the assistant gardener, but had great symbolic value.

Sierra Leone

The 'Free French Committee' in Freetown was chaired by M. Reneuve.

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Philatelic Stories in the Archives of Northern Nigeria

Dr Simon Heap

The National Archives of Nigeria at Kaduna (Fig. 1) are housed at 29 Yakubu Gowon Road (formerly Post Office Road), a short walk east of the main post office. The archives cover the history of the north of the country. (Ref. 1) Recently I had an opportunity to spend a couple of days in the archives looking for interesting philatelic stories recorded in the files from the period of British rule of Northern Nigeria.



Figure 1 National Archives of Nigeria at Kaduna

As stated in Heap, *Cameo* Volume 12 pp77-78, June 2011, Postmaster-General James Somerville had found a chaotic situation when he arrived in Northern Nigeria, including the giving out of stamps to officers heading up country. In 1905, he reported some examples of postage stamps “issued to certain officers before my time: 29 August 1902: ‘Handed to Mr Spencer’, £2 5s 10d; 1 December 1902: ‘Mr Williams for Barijuko’, £4; 31 January 1903: ‘Major Sharpe for Kontagora Province’, £2 5s 0d. Grand total: £8 10s 10d.” (Ref. 2)

Auditing post offices was a regular occurrence. In an audit on Lokoja Post Office in early 1905, George Moore found “the Post Office is suffering from a lack of organisation and supervision and the accounts are in a state of confusion.” (Ref. 3) With average weekly sales of stamps amounting to £4 to £5, the stock of stamps at the end of 1904 was an enormous £909 7s ½d, which included 50 sheets of 2s 6d stamps [worth £750] received at the start of the year. Postmaster James Pratt had taken over from Mr T.S. Wilson in the middle of May 1904, but the auditors “found no evidence of intentional dishonesty” on Pratt’s part. (Ref. 4)

With Northern Nigeria struggling to generate its own revenue to cover its expenditure, large sales of stamps was welcome income. For example, in 1905, Ewen’s Colonial Stamp Market Ltd. requested for £150 of stamps to be forwarded in a registered packet to the Crown Agents. The money was credited to the Northern Nigeria account soon after. (Ref. 5)

At Zungeru Post Office on Friday, 20 January 1905, a mail bag for Jebba and three bags of mail and official parcels for Borgu, were accidentally burnt. In his report sent the next day, Postmaster Samuel Nicol stated that at 4.45pm he “gave orders to have the bags tied up and sealed in readiness for the train the next morning while Mr (William) Jobbling and myself were busy with other mails for the provinces.” (Ref. 6)

The Post Office closed at 5.10pm, and the fire was discovered 35 minutes later. With Post Office Messenger Brimah using sealing wax and candles to seal the mail bags, “It is strongly presumed that one of the bags became singed while being sealed and that this being overlooked, smouldered and finally burst into flame after the closing of the office.” (Ref. 7)

In the first half of 1905 there had been great delay in the forwarding of mails between Lokoja and Yola, with mail only being received on eight occasions. Being delayed at Amar, the Resident Muri economised on his Postal Vote by detaining them until the arrival of Europeans bound for Yola. However, with the posting of Mr Gowers to Muri later that year, the situation improved. (Ref. 8)

On 21 March 1906, the Lokoja Post Office was broken into and three parcels were stolen. In his report to his boss in Zungeru, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Captain George Golding was clear that “the premises of the Post Office are most unsafe, and it is surprising that more thefts have not been attempted”, given the “experienced burglars, such as we have in Lokoja”. (Ref. 9) With the parcels left on a shelf close to the windows, he went on to record that “the thief or thieves carefully cut away the putty from around a pane of glass, removed it, and then displaced the very light wire screen, which was at the back of the window-frame and removed the parcels within arm’s reach.” (Ref. 10)

In early 1907, a damaged £25 stamp was forwarded to the Acting Postmaster General Howard Woolley by the Manager of the Bank of Nigeria, Lokoja, with a request that a new stamp may be issued in its place: “the stamp in question was issued in perfect condition to the Bank in October last, forwarded by them to London and has now been returned to them without gum. It is otherwise in good order. The stamp is worthless as far as this department is concerned as the only demand for £25 stamps comes from stamp dealers.” (Ref. 11) The Government agreed to the swap, as they could “see no objection to the exchange – it could be reissued for a Warehouse Licence.” (Ref. 12)

As Ince and Sacher have recorded for 1907-08, Arab traders had switched from the trans-Saharan route to mailing their skins for export southwards. (Ref. 13) This change was explained in detail by Major Festing, the Colonial Resident of Kano, who reported at the time, “The Emir of Katsina and several traders, Arab and native, would use this largely for skins to Zungeru and Lagos, as they at last realise that the post down country is a safe, quick and inexpensive way of sending parcels as compared with the fitting out of caravans and their many disadvantages and chances of loss of goods and animals.” (Ref. 14)

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Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 5/ on 100 Franc and the 10/- on 200 Franc Type 1 Stamps

Marty Bratzel

Introduction

On 1 October 1961, Cameroun introduced 12 then-current postage stamps revalued with sterling currency, for use in West Cameroun. These overprinted stamps remained in use until May 1962, when the currency conversion was completed and stamps in CFA francs were introduced. In addition, a second printing was prepared for six of the stamps and a third for two, resulting in 19 face-different stamps. (The two settings for the 4d on 15-franc stamps appear the same.) Their dates of preparation and availability have been explored (Ref. 1). Eight previous articles (Refs. 2-9) have discussed the plating of twelve of the stamps and described the distinctive characteristics of overprints from specific positions in a sheet.

The 5/- and the 10/- stamps were the subject of three printings:

- Type 1: Small numeral of value
- Type 2: Large numeral of value, with the “-” of the denomination aligned with the two bars obliterating the old value
- Type 3: Large numeral of value, with the “-” offset to the left from the bars

This article, the ninth in the series, discusses the overprint plate used to prepare the 5/- on 100-franc and the 10/- on 200-franc Type 1 stamps (Figure 1). Both overprints were prepared in September 1961 and the overprinted stamps were available for sale at post office counters on 1 October 1961.



Figure 1
5/ and 10/- Type 1 Overprint

The information presented below demonstrates:

- Both denominations were overprinted with the same plate (with suitable adjustments), the 5/ on 100-franc overprint was prepared first, and only one plate was used
- A correlation exists with the overprint on the 1½d, 3d, 6d, and the 2/6 Type 1 and Type 2 stamps
- A correlation exists with the 5/- and 10/- Type 2 overprints

The Stamps

The un-overprinted 100-franc and 200-franc definitive air mail stamps were issued 24 January 1955. Both are engraved, identical in size, and perf. 13¼ x 13. The 100-franc stamp, depicting giraffes, is printed in dark green, blue, and brown. The 200-franc stamp, depicting the port of Duala, is printed in dark green, grey-blue, and brown. Full sheets consist of 25 stamps, arranged in 5 rows of 5. The sheet characteristics were depicted in Ref. 8 and are not repeated here.

Proof Impression

At least one proof impression was prepared for the 5/ Type 1 overprint. The proof was cut into at least five pieces, three of which are to hand:

- Positions 1-2 and 6-7 (Peter Hørlyck)
- Positions 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 (Brian Lythgoe)
- Positions 11-12 (Michael Wright)
- Positions 19 and 24-25 (copy only; see Ref. 10)

These pieces, which mesh perfectly together, cover 18 positions in a full sheet of 25 stamps. The overprint proof, in orange-red or vermilion on greenish paper, is well executed. The impression is adequately inked, allowing for a clear impression that permits identification of characteristics for each position.

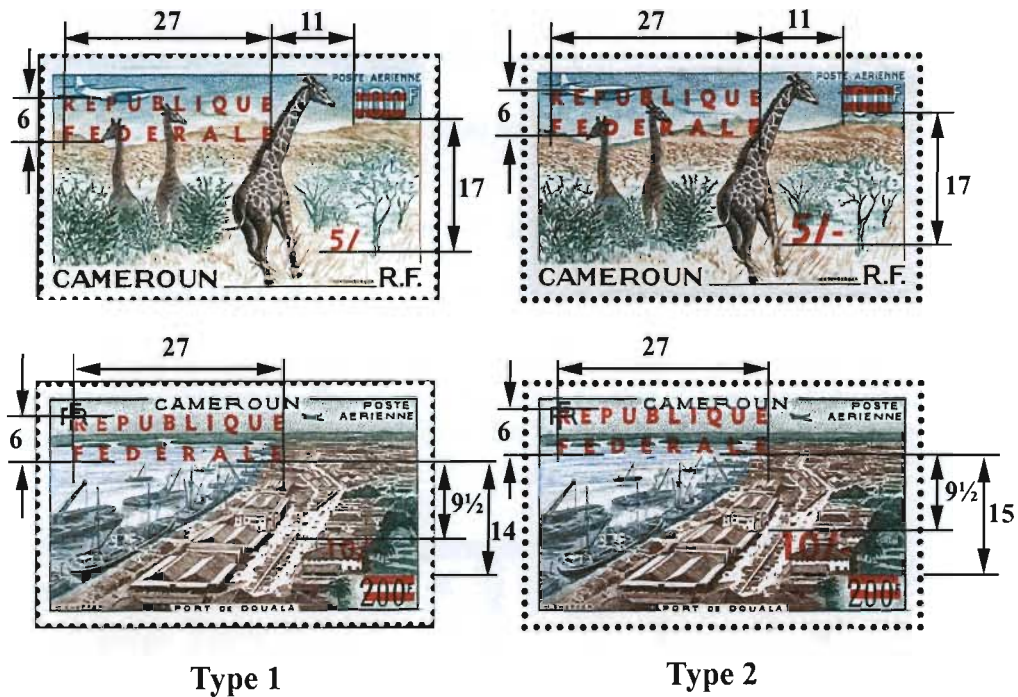


Figure 2: Characteristics and Comparison of the Type 1 and Type 2 Overprints

The overprint plate for the Type 1 overprint was well composed (Figure 2). For each of the 25 positions for both denominations, the REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE block measures 27 x 6 mm, with only minor variations of up to $\pm\frac{1}{4}$ mm for some positions. There are very slight variations in the position of the letters of FEDERALE relative to REPUBLIQUE, but nothing sufficient to assist with plating. Other dimensions given in Figure 2 are remarkably consistent, and there is no discernible variation in the placement of the various components of the overprint at each position. For multiples and for those portions of the proof impression available for examination, REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE are slightly misaligned along each row. The text is well aligned down each column. There is no discernible difference in spacing between the overprints on adjacent stamps.

Examination of the Type 1 Overprint on the 5/ Proof and the 5/ and 10/- Stamps

Several marginal blocks with selvage are available for examination but, overall, the number of stamps available is limited. For many of the stamps, the adherence of the overprint ink is uneven, especially over the more heavily engraved portions of the design, posing a challenge to identify constant characteristics of the overprint bars. Nonetheless, when coupled with the proof impression, several major overprint characteristics are reasonably easily seen with a conventional magnifying glass; these are referred to as macro-characteristics. Additional characteristics can be identified under 30x magnification; these are referred to as micro-characteristics. Taken together, the material available is sufficient to allow analysis,

although not as detailed as for other stamps in the series. Key characteristics are presented below and illustrated in Figures 3-9. Other identified and confirmed characteristics do not lend themselves to illustration here.

Position 1. Indentation on bottom edge of upper bar (Figure 3)

Position 9. Holes near each end of upper bar. Hole near left end and indentation to left of centre on the upper edge of the lower bar (Figure 4)

Position 12. Top arm of first E of REPUBLIQUE broken, and top left corner of P slightly rounded (Figure 5, page 146). The latter characteristic is difficult to reproduce here

Position 15. Indentation near left end on lower edge of upper bar. Indentation near right end on lower edge of lower bar (Figure 6)

Position 19. Upper left corner of top bar broken (Figure 7). D of FEDERALE broken (Figure 8). The latter characteristic is difficult to reproduce here

Position 20. Indentation near right end on lower edge of lower bar (Figure 9)



Figure 3 Position 1

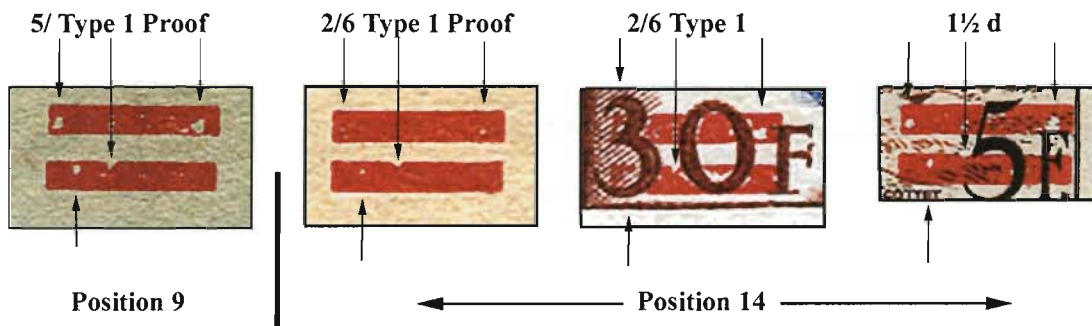


Figure 4 Position 9 5/ Type 1 Proof
 Bars shifted to Position 14 for the 2/6 Type 1 proof and subsequent stamps
 Overinking has a tendency to obscure some of the characteristics

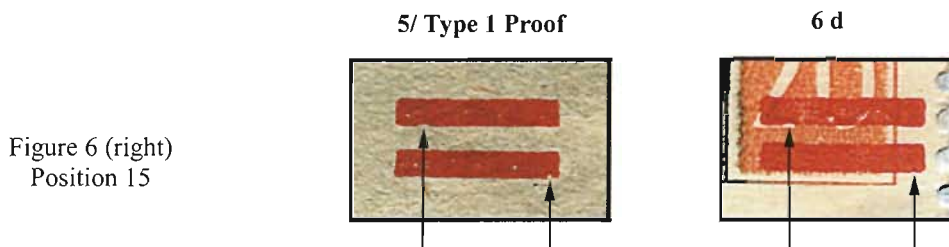


Figure 6 (right)
 Position 15

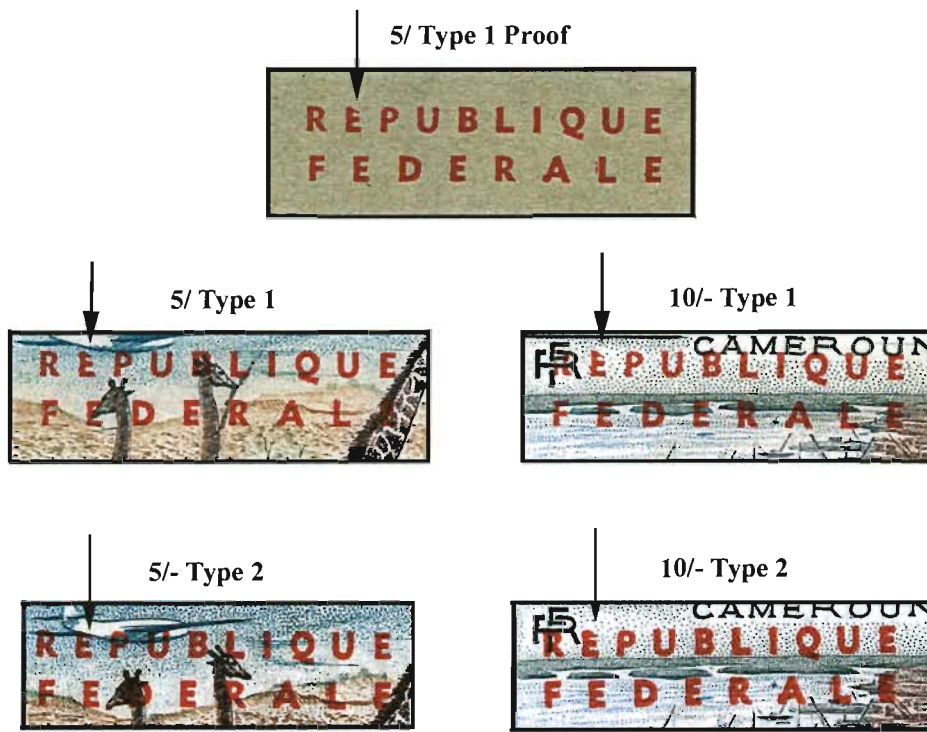


Figure 5 Position 12
 Broken E and rounded P in REPUBLICUE for the proof, 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps
 Also broken E and rounded P at same positions for the 5/- and 10/- Type 2 stamps

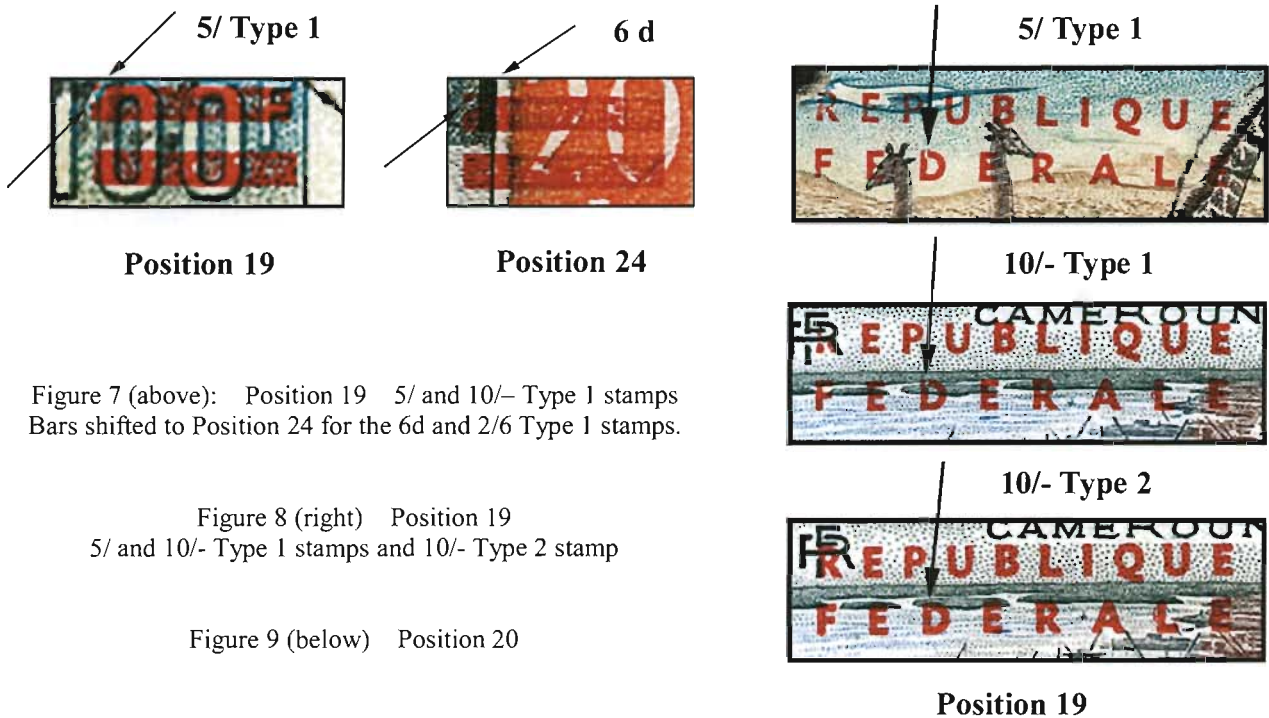
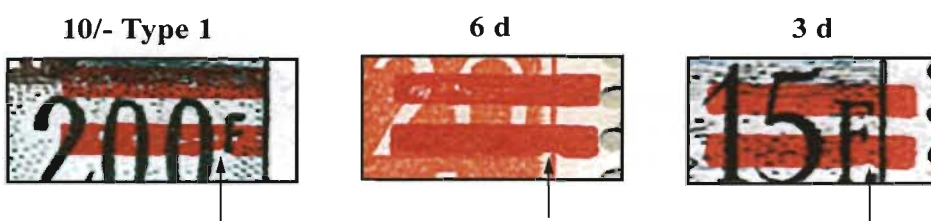


Figure 7 (above): Position 19 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps
 Bars shifted to Position 24 for the 6d and 2/6 Type 1 stamps.

Figure 8 (right) Position 19
 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps and 10/- Type 2 stamp

Figure 9 (below) Position 20



Based on this examination, the author concludes that the same plate – suitably adjusted – was used to overprint both stamps and, because the proof exists for the 5/, that the 5/ Type 1 overprint was prepared first. After examining all of the stamps available to the author, there is no evidence to indicate that more than one plate was used to apply the overprint to these stamps.

Comparison of this Overprint with Overprints on Other Stamps in the Series

As demonstrated earlier (Ref. 7), one overprint plate – suitably adjusted – was used to prepare the 2/6 on 30 francs Type 1 and then the 6d on 20 francs stamps. The characteristics observed for the bars for the overprint on the 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps were compared to the overprint on those two stamps. Indeed, specific characteristics of the bars correlate for 20 of the 25 positions, although in at least two cases one or both of the bars have been inverted during the transition. However, in composing the plate for the 2/6 Type 1 overprint, for the fourth column, *the bars have been shifted down one row*, that is, Position 4 to Position 9, 9 to 14, 14 to 19, 19 to 24, and 24 up to the top to Position 4. The correspondences for selected positions are illustrated in Figures 3-4, 6-7 and 9.

In addition, the broken E and rounded P at Position 12 and the broken D at Position 19 disappear, but the broken bar – formerly at Position 19 and now at position 24 – remains.

For the unchanged positions, the author is highly confident or absolutely certain that 13 of the 20 positions are unchanged; both macro and micro bar characteristics match. For 7, the author is reasonably confident, but the poor adherence of the overprint ink to the stamps is frustrating. Witness the need to examine 26+ sheets of the 2/6 Type 2 overprint (Ref. 6). The author is highly confident that the bars in the fourth column were shifted. Examination of additional 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps, especially multiples, should solidify the observations and conclusions.

As established earlier, the plate used to prepare the 2/6 Type 1 and then the 6d overprints was further adjusted to prepare the 1½d on 5 francs, 3d on 15 francs, and the 2/6 on 30 francs Type 2 stamps, in that order. The characteristics for Positions 1-20 for these two groups are the same but, as also established earlier, different for Positions 21-25. Indeed, the broken bar originally at Position 19, then shifted to Position 24, disappears.

To confound the issue, the broken E and rounded P found at position 12, and the broken D at Position 19 for the 5/ and the 10/- Type 1 stamps reappear *at the same positions for the 5/- and the 10/- Type 2 stamps* (Figures 5 and 8). However, there is no correlation of the bar characteristics for the 5/- and 10/- Type 2 stamps with their Type 1 counterparts. The type composing the single-line REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE was not reused, as evidenced by the absence of worn or broken letters that were present near the end of the print run for the 3d and 2/6 Type 2 overprints.

Proposed Scenario

The following sequence of events would explain these observations:

The plate for the 5/ Type 1 overprint was prepared, then adjusted – with minimal disassembly – for the 10/- Type 1 overprint. Bars remained at the same positions for both stamps

The bars were then removed from the overprint plate and inserted into a new plate that was being prepared for the 2/6 Type 1 overprint, but the bars for the fourth column were shifted downward one row, with the bars at the bottom row moved to the top of the column.

As discussed earlier (Ref. 7), that new plate then went through adjustments to produce the overprints for the 6d, 1½d, 3d, and the 2/6 Type 2 overprints, in that order.

Why remove the bars from one plate and insert them into another? Why not? There was no further need for the plate used to prepare the 5/ and 10/- Type 1 stamps, and the plate was going to be disassembled anyway.

Consider the arrangement of the type composing REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE on the various stamps in this series. The 5/- and 10/- values are the only stamps with the words in two lines and the letters widely spaced. For all the other values, the overprint was either one line, or two and with the letters close together. It would have made sense then, and saved time, for the printers to have separately composed the letters for the other values into the required formats rather than taking the additional time to perform a significant reworking of the letters from the 10/- Type 1 plate.

Disassembly of the old plate likely continued, with the removal of the “10/-” and their probable placement back into stock. However, before disassembly could be completed, specifically breaking down the two-line REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE and removing the spacers, the need was recognized to prepare additional stamps revalued 5/- and 10/-. With the text and most, if not all, of the spacers still in place and with only the numerals and bars having been removed, the plate was reconstituted, but with larger-sized “10/” and “5/” and with different bars drawn from stock. The dimensions and spacing of letters, bars, and numerals, both as arranged on a given stamp and between adjacent stamps, are essentially the same for both the Type 2 and the Type 1 stamps (Figure 2; see also Figure 3 in Ref. 8 for additional measurements). Also, the slight misalignment previously noted across each row for the Type 2 stamps is also present for the Type 1 stamps.

These observations and measurements indicate that plate disassembly had indeed not progressed that far. This would account for the broken letters appearing at Positions 12 and 19 for both the Type 1 and Type 2 stamps. Since the partially disassembled plate was probably still set up for the 10/- configuration, it makes sense to conclude that the 10/- Type 2 was prepared before the 5/- Type 2.

That other bars were drawn from supply to prepare this Type 2 plate is clear – the key bar characteristics on the Type 2 plate have not been seen elsewhere – at least not on the denominations and types plated to date – and the key bar characteristics seen previously on the Type 1 plate and for the other values noted above do not reappear. See, for example, the illustrations in Ref. 7 and 8. That is not to say, however, that some of the bars previously used were not reused but, at this point, that appears unlikely.

Of course, one cannot rule out the possibility that only one overprint plate was involved, that is, that the 10/- Type 1 plate was significantly reworked into the format required for the 2/6 Type 1 stamps. This would presume that the two-line spaced REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE blocks were removed and set aside in order, awaiting disassembly after completion of the entire print job, and that single-line blocks – prepared from different type – inserted.

Later, after the 2/6 Type 2 stamps had been printed, in order to prepare the additional quantity of overprinted 5/- and 10/- stamps, the two-line block of type reading REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE could have been reassembled into the plate in the same order as originally used, again with considerable reworking of the components of the overprint plate. This alternative is possible but makes little sense, as it would have involved considerably more time and effort.

There may be other scenarios to explain the observations. With West Africa, anything is possible!

Given the high correlation of characteristics described earlier, the author is inclined to accept that the straightforward scenario proposed above was the route followed. This sequence of events reinforces the time frame and conclusion previously reached (Ref. 1) that the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- Type 2 stamps were all prepared in late September or very early October 1961, shortly after the initial twelve stamps – that is, those placed on sale at postal counters in West Cameroun – were prepared. Again, the likely rationale to prepare the Type 2 overprints was to supply the Philatelic Bureau in Paris.

Used copies of these three Type 2 overprinted stamps exist, the result of philatelic covers prepared with stamps acquired through the Philatelic Bureau and sent to Cameroun for postmarking. There is no evidence that these three stamps were ever placed on sale in Cameroun.

The 5/- and 10/- Type 3 stamps, with large numerals and the “-” offset, were prepared later and will be discussed in a future article.

Conclusions

The 5/- and 10/- Type 1 stamps were prepared first, in that order, and each was prepared from a single overprint plate configuration. The bars from that plate were then removed and incorporated into another plate used to prepare five other overprinted stamps in the following order: 2/6 Type 1, 6d, 1½d, 3d, and 2/6 Type 2.

The original Type 1 plate with the two-line block reading REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE and which had been partially disassembled, was reconstituted – but with larger numerals and “/” and with different bars – to prepare the 10/- and then the 5/- Type 2 stamps.

Yet to be factored in are the 4d on 15-franc stamps. Evidence indicates that two overprint plates, each with 50 positions, were used. The plating of those stamps will include a comparison of the 4d overprint characteristics with the characteristics of the single-line overprint on the stamps noted above. Such a comparison may provide insight into whether any of the type – especially the bars – described above were transferred for use in either of the 4d overprint plates.

Thanks are extended to Brian Lythgoe, Michael Wright, and Peter Hørlyck for loan of material for first-hand study. Without their contributions, this study would not have been possible. As always, comments and additional insight are welcome.

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WWII Air Mails from French Equatorial Africa a Correction

Barbara Priddy

Thanks - and apologies - to everyone who spotted the error in the article in the last edition (*Cameo* 83, June pp107-113) on WWII air mails from French Equatorial Africa, and told me so! For the few who haven't yet noticed, the cover illustrated (correctly) as Figure 6 also appeared (incorrectly) as Figure 4. Figure 4 below shows the correct Figure 4. Apologies to all concerned.

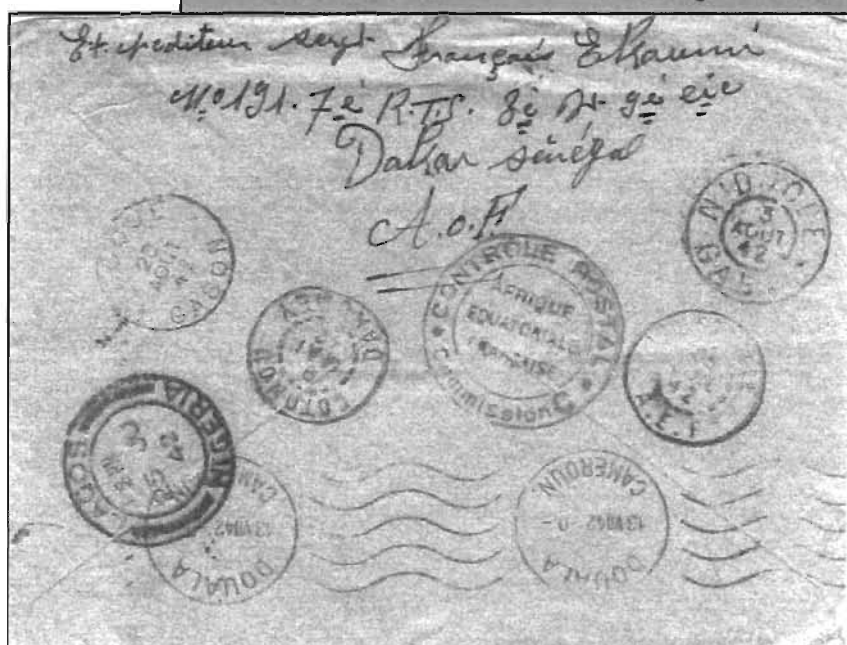
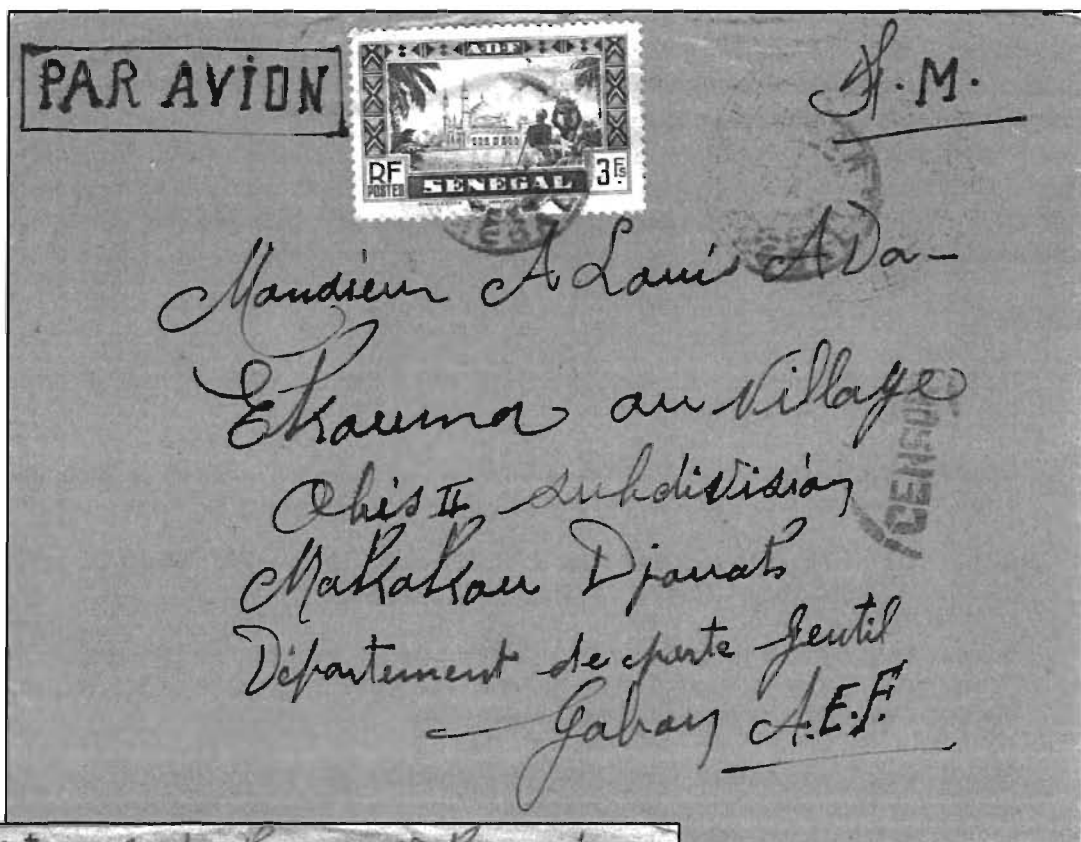


Figure 4

The correct Figure 4 for p111 in *Cameo* 83

Cover from Dakar to Booué in Gabon in May 1942 with FM paying the basic postage and 3fr the air mail fee, carried by air between Dakar and Cotonou, then by surface: Lagos in June, Douala and Libreville in July and destination in August

Cameroun 1914 - 1916: Postmarks and Sailings

Dudley Cobb

My publications so far under the general title *Cameroun in the Great War* (Ref 1) have illustrated and/or described well over a hundred letters and cards handled by the French army postal services (and to some degree the French navy) during the period of hostilities. Bob Maddocks' study (Ref 2) contained a wealth of material as well, focused more on the British forces' mail.

Ships carrying mail from Cameroun, and their sailing and docking dates, can be identified by correlating information from, principally, French navy logs and the records of shipping movements in the Lloyds Marine Collection. *The Homeward Mail* lists a considerable proportion of the mail sailings from Douala, under both French and British flags.

In a personal communication on that book in draft form, Martin Bratzel suggested making "a chronological listing of all ships calling at Douala / Souellaba, including name and nationality of ship, date of arrival, date of departure, departure to (including intermediate ports of call and final port in Europe) – to the extent that such information is available...this would take time to assemble, but...such information is extremely useful". Other researchers may indeed find that a fruitful course. Of more concern to me, just now, is the relation between Cameroun postmarks and sailing dates that the material in *The Homeward Mail* brings out. Evidence indicates that both postal services, French and British, did not routinely postmark correspondence until it had to be bagged for departure.

On the French side, the relation can be seen only during the two periods when the Trésor et Postes aux Armées Cameroun (TPAC) datestamp was in regular or consistent use. They cover just eight of the campaign's eighteen months, i.e. from January to end March or April 1915, and then from November 1915 to March 1916 (otherwise, undated army postal handstamps were used). At present I am trying to compile, and annotate, a list of the known dates for the TPAC canceller. So far there seem, at most, seven or eight dates of postal use a month.

Postmarks with the German Duala datestamps employed by the British army postal service are found throughout the period, from October 1914 to March 1916. Tracking down vessels that took British mail was a secondary concern in *The Homeward Mail*. Quite a few are identified there, but loose ends remain – some of them convoluted, as the *Appam* business shows (see below). A serious student of the British mail could usefully, when tackling this, compile a more comprehensive list of Duala postmark dates.

One reason is the interest in tracing the journeys made by items of correspondence, obviously. But the lists, French and British, will also confirm known departures and bring unsuspected ones to light. The sometimes odd postmarks on postcards will perhaps become easier to understand, and favour cancels on loose stamps and the backdated use of wartime cancellers easier to detect. The customary notation for cancellers, of first and last known dates of use, is hardly sufficient for many west coast cancels of the pre-war period, and certainly not for the military mail from Cameroun.

A correction and an update to *The Homeward Mail*: In December 1914 (page 17), the reference to the 'Duala a Kamerun' canceller seems a confusion on my part. I cannot trace any supporting evidence, and it must be incorrect. It remains true that the Expeditionary Force datestamp is known for a few days only; perhaps the list of postmarks suggested above will show up British mail for other dates between late November and early January 1915.

In December 1915 (page 44) the reference to *Appam's* last call illustrates the difficulty in tracing the journeys of British mail passing through Lagos. *Appam* sailed on the 9th: its British mail was dropped at Lagos, and probably carried home by *Abinsi*. Another departure was announced for the 23rd by *Akabo*, for the west coast. A letter postmarked 21 December, of which several illustrations have appeared in the last fifteen years (Ref 3), no doubt left then. The note on *Appam* (page 66) – where 1915 should of course read 1914 – ends "No Cameroun mail is known to have been carried at the time [of its capture by *Möwe*]". I had

drawn on the finest expertise available, and that was correct at the time of printing. It is now argued (Ref 4) that this letter of 21 December – arrival 19 February at London – is *Appam* mail. So *Appam*'s bags on 9 December went on by *Abinsi*; some of *Akabo*'s bags on 23 December went on (as far as the United States!) by *Appam*... *The Karina* note on the same page further illustrates the tangled sea-passages of British mail. The threads are worth untangling, they can provide "information [that] is extremely useful". In that particular field, I will only say Good Hunting!

References

- 1 Cobb D.R., *Cameroun in the Great War: Vol. I The Military Handstamps and the Early Overprints*, ISBN 2-9511613-1-X; *Vol. II The French Navy and the AEF Columns*, ISBN 2-9511613-2-8; *Vol. III The Homeward Mail*, ISBN 2-9511613-3-6
- 2 Maddocks R.J., *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, ISBN 0-9529487-0-2
- 3 Notably in Ref. 2, p121, and in *Cameo* Vol. 11 p154
- 4 Bratzel, M., "German Taxe Marks on Togo and Kamerun/Cameroun Mail", *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 61 p28, whole no. 259, March 2011



Misset 27.1.26 DUALA-a Postmark: Determination of the Actual Date of Use

Marty Bratzel

In the early years of the twentieth century, the German postal administration introduced three Swiss-style handstamps for use at the Duala, Kamerun post office. The date, displayed in a bridge across the centre, was set by adjusting wheels. All three cancellers remained in use after the surrender of Duala to the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force on 27 September 1914, and two continued in use at the French post office at Duala after the introduction of civilian administration effective 1 April 1916. However, the latest confirmed date of use of the Duala handstamp with index 'a' (Friedemann No. 20) is 29 December 1915 (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Duala-a 29.12.15 postmark – the latest recorded date
This date has also been recorded on mail

In an intriguing tidbit in *The London Philatelist* (Ref. 1) – and included in Maddocks' book (Ref. 2) – Messrs Stanley Gibbons wrote, "We have found one stamp of 1d on 10 pf postmarked '27.1.26'; evidently the 2 in the year has slipped in for the 1." Maddocks later illustrated (Ref. 3) an envelope piece bearing five C.E.F. overprinted Kamerun yacht stamps clearly postmarked Duala-a 27.1.26. Clearly, the date is wrong, but what is the correct date?

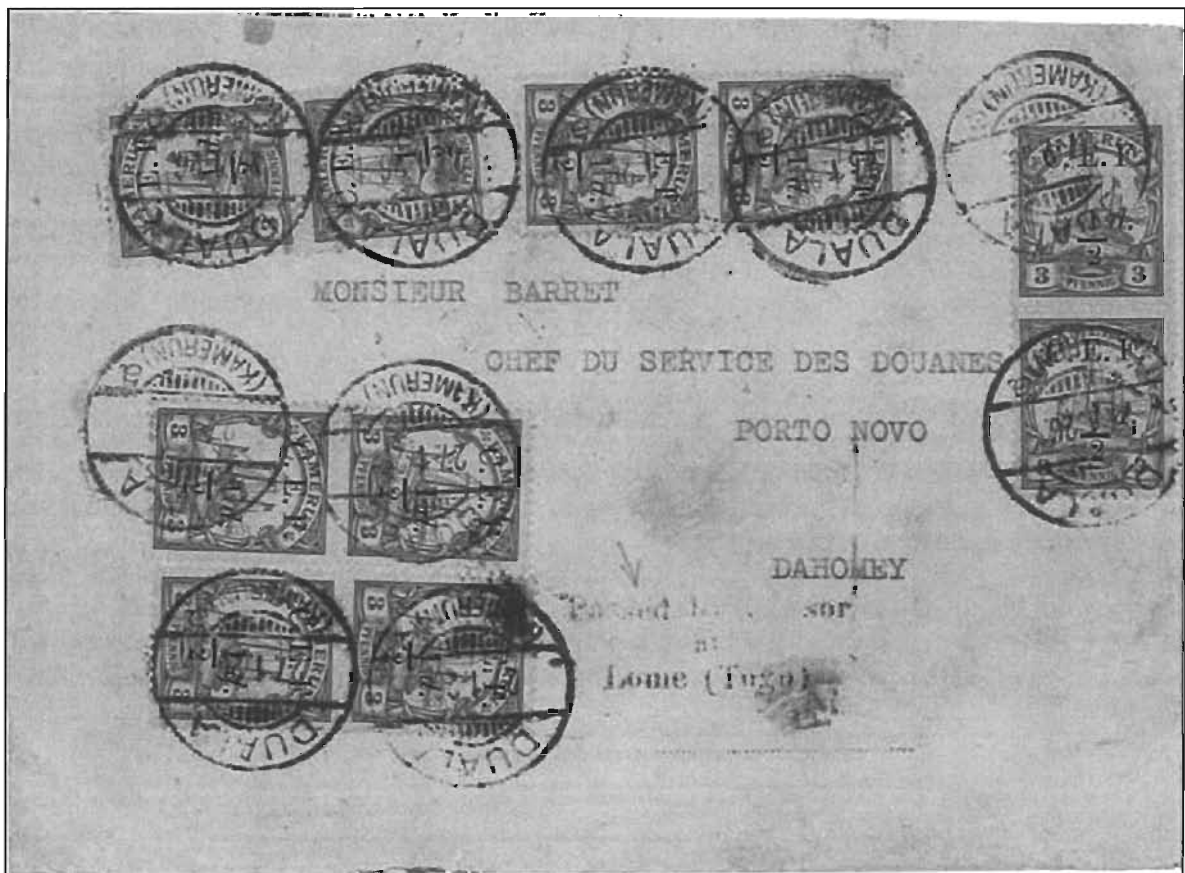


Figure 2 Cover postmarked Duala-a 27.1.26
The backstamps, however, indicate that the cover was actually mailed in November 1915

In Auction No. 78 of 19 September 2011, Lugdunum Philatelie offered Lot 404, a cover with ten Kamerun 3-pfennig yacht stamps overprinted C.E.F. and revalued to ½d (Figure 2). The stamps are all postmarked Duala-a 27.1.26. The cover is clearly philatelic, as the 5d postage on the envelope pays no known rate. Registration cannot be considered as part of the fee paid, since that service was not available at the military post office operated by the British contingent of the C.E.F.

Addressed to the head of the customs office in Porto Novo, Dahomey, the cover is backstamped Lome Togo 30.11.15, Anecho Togo 1.12.15, Grand Popo Dahomey 2 Dec 15, and Porto Novo Dahomey 3 Dec 15. From the backstamps, we can conclude that the cover was posted some time during November 1915, but when?

Regarding postal operations at Duala during the C.E.F. period, Cobb (Ref. 5) reported “that as a rule mail was not cancelled or handstamped until a French, or a British, [steamship] departure was imminent, or at least thought to be imminent.” Mail turned in over a period of several days to the post office operated by the British contingent – or to the office opened by the French contingent on 10 November 1915 – was held and postmarked at one time with one date.

Two erstwhile German cancellers – Duala-a and Duala-b – were used concurrently during November 1915 at the C.E.F. post office operated by the British contingent (see Note 6). Use on the same day has not been reported, nor would this be expected. The recorded dates during November 1915 are summarised in the table.

| Duala Cancellers used during November 1915 | |
|---|------------------|
| Duala-a (Fr. 20) | Duala-b (Fr. 21) |
| 8.11.15 | 4.11.15 |
| 12.11.15 | 8.11.15 |
| 19.11.15 | 17.11.15 |
| 20.11.15 | 23.11.15 |
| 30.11.15 | 25.11.15 |
| | 26.11.15 |

Especially between October 1915 and February 1916, a sizeable quantity of both commercial and philatelic mail was sent from Duala to Lome. Since many items were backstamped upon arrival at Lome, it is possible to determine that the transit time fluctuated between 10 and 24 days. This mail did not travel directly but was offloaded at an intermediate port – primarily Lagos – and held until a ship was departing for Lome. Although some Duala arrivals and departures were scheduled, many were not. To dispatch mail, the postal authorities took advantage of any ship that was heading in the right direction and to the right port.

Maddocks (Ref. 2) and Cobb (Ref. 5) compiled information from official sources about ship departures from Duala and their destinations, to the extent that such information was available. A number of departures direct to Lome or Cotonou or Porto Novo are recorded. These towns are in reasonably close proximity (and well connected by road or rail) to each other along the Atlantic coast, so maritime transit times from Duala should be about the same. In each case, the transit time was two days, as determined primarily by arrival postmarks on mail. During November 1915, two direct ship departures are recorded:

- The Chargeurs Reunis steamship *Afrique* departed on 18 November and arrived at Cotonou two days later, on the 20th. Backstamped mail has been recorded
-
- The Elder Dempster steamship *Egwanga* departed at 10 am on 28 November for Lome and thence onward to Accra and Britain

The *Egwanga*'s departure had been announced on 27 November, so one can presume that mail was duly postmarked on that date. With the mid-morning departure – possibly from the roadstead at Souellaba Point, about 30 kilometres from Duala – the mail bags were probably made up the evening before for transport from Duala to the ship the next morning, the 28th.

Returning to the Duala-a postmark dated 27.1.26, let us presume that the day is correct. Since the direct transit time was two days, then mail carried aboard the *Egwanga* and offloaded upon arrival at Lome would have been postmarked there two days later, on the 30th. Indeed, the cover is backstamped 30 November. In all likelihood, then, the correct date of the postmark should have been 27.11.15, not 27.1.26.

From the recorded postmark dates for November 1915, the Duala-a device was last used on 20 November. Between then and the 27th, the Duala-b handstamp was used – on November 23, 25 and 26 – so one can presume that the Duala-a device saw no use after the 20th until the 27th. One can also presume that, when the date on the Duala-a canceller was adjusted – likely from 20.11.15 – the month and/or year wheels were inadvertently turned. Perhaps the error was noticed, perhaps not. If so, then any attempt to correct the mistake may have compounded the problem. In any event, the bottom line was an impossible date, but the mystery has been solved.

Thanks are extended to Lugdunum Philatelie for the scan of the cover in Figure 2. Additional information and discussion is welcome.

References

- 1 Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. "Cameroons", *The London Philatelist*, Vol. XXV, p40, 1916
- 2 Maddocks R.J., *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, Author, Oswestry, UK, 1996, ISBN 0-9529487-0-2
- 3 Maddocks, Bob., "Cameroons C.E.F. Overprints & Postal Arrangements", *Cameo*, Vol. 6 p68, WASC, July 1998
- 4 Lugdunum Philatelie, Sainte-Foy-Les-Lyon, France. Auction 78, 19 September 2011, Lot 404
- 5 Cobb Dudley, *Cameroun in the Great War, Volume III, The Homeward Mail / Cameroun : La Grande Guerre, Tome III, La Voie Maritime*, Author, Couflens, France, 2010 ISBN 2-9511613-3-6 (Available from the author or from Roumet, Paris)
- 6 The post office operated by the French contingent used a single-circle handstamp that read 'Tresor et Postes aux Armees / Cameroun' and had the date, composed with slugs, in the centre



French Naval Posts in North & West Africa in WW II The Use of Algerian Stamps and an un-noticed Airmail Fee

Bill Mitchell

This article is an abbreviated version of an article under the same title that the author has submitted to the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, published here in response to an article in Cameo No. 82, January 2011.

The interesting article by Stewart Duncan and Rob May, *Inbound to the Gambia, 1943 - but where from?* (Ref. 1) overlooked one important point in considering why Algerian stamps were used on a cover posted from Dakar, Senegal to Bathurst, Gambia on 19 November 1943.

There were, in fact, two reasons for the use of Algerian stamps; the practical and the political. The first, the impossibility of obtaining supplies of stamps from France, is included in this article, but the second is absent. In my article on French Naval Posts in the two World Wars (Ref. 2) I wrote, immediately after the sentence quoted:

Furthermore, in June 1943 de Gaulle had removed his headquarters from London to Algiers, which consequently acquired Paris's responsibilities for postal matters in the liberated parts of the French Empire. So on both counts Algerian stamps replaced those of France in military and naval post offices in North And West Africa.

Since that article was published I have found a report of the official document authorising the use of Algerian stamps on naval mail at this stage of the War. In a little-known 13-page monograph (Ref. 3) Henry C. Dupont prints relevant extracts (Ref. 4) from General Directive No. 294 FMA 3 issued from Casablanca on 18 March 1943 by Vice-Admiral Michelier, commanding Free French naval forces (Ref. 5)

It contained a long series of Instructions concerning La Poste Navale including:

- 1 *The Poste Navale in French Africa is re-instated....*
- 7 *Throughout the period of hostilities, naval personnel entitled to (free) postal franchise can use the air mail service on airlines operating a postal service. The applicable airmail fee is 1f50 per 5 grams with a weight limit of 5 grams.*
- 8 *Algerian stamps must be used for all payment of postage in the Bureaux Navales of French Africa. Personnel aboard ship will receive, free of charge, with their pay, four 1f50 stamps to be used for the airmail fee.*

The translation, slightly amended in the introductory part, is by Mick Bister.

Very little attention seems to have been given to this 1 franc50 rate and Dupont is no exception. He seems to be saying that it only applied to the personal mail dealt with in instructions 7 & 8, but it was outside his remit (Ref. 4) and it would be interesting to know what he omitted from the Directive of 18 March 1943 as not being relevant to his theme - in particular, what did it say about official and foreign mail? A recent article by François Chauvin (Ref. 6) tells us a little more. The 1f50 rate, the 5 grams steps and the 5 grams weight limit were the same as had been imposed by a décret of 6 September 1941, but the weight limit did not apply to official correspondence with *la métropole* (Ref. 5) as it apparently did in 1941. Apart from this reduced airmail fee, official correspondence presumably continued on normal lines with registration and other special services, and with all foreign postal charges having to be paid in full.

To revert to the Dakar - Bathurst letter of 19 November 1944, Bathurst was clearly not in *la métropole* so normal foreign postal rates applied. Thanks to Bob Picirilli's new book on postage rates (Ref. 7) it is now possible to give a definitive analysis of the franking. Basic postage was 4 francs for the first 20 grams and registration was also 4 francs (tariff of 1 April 1942). The airmail fee from French West Africa to Gambia was 2 francs per 5 grams or part thereof under a tariff of unknown commencement date, imposed by an arrêté of 26 September 1943. The total franking of 14 francs shows that the letter weighed between 10 and 15 grams (4+4+3x2 francs). And there is no need to consider the possibility that the use of Algerian stamps on this cover, or any others like it, was in any way irregular.

References

- 1 Ducan S. & May R., "Inbound to Gambia, 1943 - but where from?", *Cameo*, Volume 12 p22, WASC, January 2011
- 2 Mitchell W., "La Poste Navale - some notes on the French Naval Posts in the two World Wars", *Journal of the France & Colonies PS*, Volume 60 pp135-137, whole number 258, December 2010
- 3 Dupont, H.C., *La Naissance des surcharges 'R.F.' de la Poste Navale Française (1943-1945)*, L'Echangiste Universel, Bischwiller, no date but after 1963
- 4 Unfortunately, Dupont did not print the whole document. In the main, he was writing about correspondence between sailors and their (girl-) friends in the United States and Canada, where many French warships had recently (that is, from the summer of 1943) been refitted. This correspondence was at an inclusive rate of 6 US cents (equal to 3 francs) per half ounce (14 grams, with a maximum of 20 grams) provided the letters were sent via the American Military Air Service. The US did not charge basic postage and airmail costs separately
- 5 In the event, both the Navy Staff headquarters and the Bureau Central Naval were transferred to Algiers some six months later
- 6 Chauvin F., "1943-1945: La Reconstitution de la Poste Navale", *Timbres*, No. 120 pp92-93, February 2011
- 7 *La métropole* normally means (metropolitan) France. In this wartime context, long before the liberation of France, it seems to mean French Africa
- 8 Picirilli R., *Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies, 1920-1945*, France & Colonies Philatelic Society (GB), table 13.2 p144 & table 13.5 p148, 2011

Northern Cameroons 1960-1961 - Ganye Agency

Bob Maddocks

On 1 October 1960, Northern Cameroons, a United Nations Trust Territory previously administered as an integral part of Northern Nigeria, came under the direct control of the British Government in London. This lasted for eight months during which a plebiscite was held to decide the territory's political future.

Sir Percy Wyn-Harris was appointed as Administrator and, of legal necessity, he had to introduce amendments to certain Nigerian laws already in force in Northern Cameroons. Accordingly, one of the first concerned postal matters and the following appeared in the *Northern Cameroons Gazette* Number 1, Volume 1 of 1 October 1960:

POST OFFICE ORDINANCE

(Chapter 174 of the 1948 Revised Edition of the Laws of Nigeria)

Re-number section 12 as subsection (1) of section 12 and insert the following new subsection:-

“(2) The stamps, stamped envelopes, stamped wrappers and envelopes for registered postal matter and postal cards provided under subsection (1) of this section shall be used in the Northern Cameroons.”

Another declared that the currency of the Northern Cameroons shall be the same currency as that of the Federation of Nigeria and shall be the legal tender in the Territory.

No mention was made, however, of the use and validity in Northern Cameroons of those stamps simultaneously issued in its sister Trustee Territory of Southern Cameroons. These were the obsolete last colonial definitives of Nigeria overprinted ‘CAMEROONS / U.K.T.T.’ through the Crown Agents in London. Such stamps are nonetheless occasionally to be found on commercial covers mailed from Northern Cameroons Post Offices and Agencies. It is not so far known whether the Northern Cameroons Administration had, like that of Southern Cameroons, entered into a formal Agency Agreement with the Nigerian Government for its postal services to continue to be run by the Nigerian Posts and Telegraphs Department from Lagos as was the case until the Territory rejoined Nigeria on 1 June 1961.

Furthermore, my contact informed me that no other details relating to opening and/or upgrading of postal facilities were noted but some copies of the *Gazette* were missing. Doubts must remain as to when the opening of Ganye Agency took place, though shown as one existing on a UN map of March 1961. The earliest reference I can find is an entry in the *Post Office Impression Books* in London, which shows under date 27 July 1961 that a single ring datestamp ‘GANYE - YOLA’ (Figure 1) was prepared. This was after the Territory had rejoined Nigeria on 1 June 1961 and is thus not listed in Reference 1.

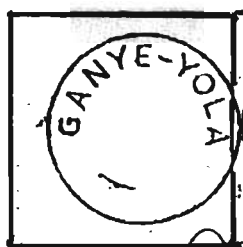


Figure 1

‘GANYE - YOLA Impression
entered on 27.7.1961 in Volume 61 of the
Post Office Impression Book - Overseas Section

Reference

- 1 Maddocks R.J & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB, Canada 1994, and *Supplement*



Fernando Po: An Unusual 'Charity' Stamp of the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

Bob Maddocks

In 1936 following the outbreak of the military revolt in Spain against the Republican Government, General Franco, then based in the Canary Islands, came to be named as leader of the rebel Nationalist forces. A detachment of his troops was sent to seize successfully the sister colony of Fernando Po in Spanish Guinea from the governing Socialist Popular Front, which supported the Central government in Madrid.

The registered cover here shown (Figures 1 and 2, front and reverse) was mailed under the islands' new regime on 22 November 1937 from the capital, Santa Isabel, to Douala, Cameroun on the African mainland opposite. It was backstamped DOUALA / CHARGEMENTS / 13 DEC 37 after, presumably, a sea passage over the intervening 50 miles or so.

The registration label thereon is printed in red - apart from its number which is in black - with its domicile in abbreviated format viz 'Sta. Isabel-Fdo. Póo / Guinea Española'. The cover was franked with a block of six of the 40c blue stamp (SG 252) from the 1932 definitive issue of Territorios Españoles del Golfo de Guinea overprinted in 1936/7 in black by the new regime, 'HABILITADO / 30 Cts' (SG 293). The stamps were cancelled by several strikes of a chamfered boxed date stamp reading in four lines 'CERTIFICADO / 22 NOV 37 / SANTA ISABEL / FERNANDO POO'.

Also, there are two cachets further applied to the cover applicable to the period. The first, on the front, is the slogan in two straight lines 'VIVA ESPAÑA / ARRIBA ESPAÑA'; the second, on the reverse, is a three line censor cachet 'CENSURA MILITAR / SANTA ISABEL / FERNANDO POO'. Both were struck in reddish purple.

The principal interest, however, provided by this cover is a seventh stamp as affixed next to the others in the top right hand corner. Whilst it was similarly postally cancelled, it does not appear to have been included in the overall franking calculation. Moreover, it is not listed by Gibbons and enquiries of the catalogue editor drew a blank. This stamp, too, originated from the same 1931 definitive set mentioned above, having a face value of 2c (SG 245) but here, instead, has, intriguingly a different overprint namely 'FRANCO / suscripción / nacional / 0,25 Ptas.'. This 25c overprint clearly cancels out the stamp's original 2c value and shows that it was intended for fund-raising, not postal, purposes. However, I could find no details as to how this had materialised. Having recourse to the Spanish Philatelic Study Circle for a possible explanation, I received a most kind and useful response from its Secretary, Mrs. J. Richardson with reference to the Spanish catalogue 'Edial Unificado Especializado 1996 Vol. III'.

This stamp is one of a set of 12 similarly overprinted low value stamps issued 1936/37 as 'locales' for charity purposes with the pretext of a national subscription of prescribed amounts from 0,10 peseta to 1 peseta. The money raised was presumably for the support of General Franco and his Nationalists' cause in the Civil War. However, no specific purpose or indeed organising body, whether public or private is indicated or otherwise known to have been involved.

The stamps concerned were made up from four of each of the lowest three values of the aforementioned 1931 definitives viz 1c, 2c and 3c. I surmise that because of inflation or incompatibility with changed tariffs they had, some five or six years later, been phased out / withdrawn from sale. The remaindered stocks had thus likely been authorised for use for fund raising, purposes as overprinted. But the actual background information concerning this 'charity' issue has yet to be ascertained by me.

I am informed that only very rarely are these stamps found used on cover as here illustrated. For interest, figure 3 illustrates a view card of Santa Isabel and Clarence Cove circa 1961 when permission for the author to visit the island was still only given on the Regime's highest authority.



Figure 1 (above)

Cover dated 22 November 1937 from Santa Isabel to Douala, Cameroun, with 'charity' stamp alongside the franking

Figure 2 (left)

Reverse of cover showing censor and arrival marks



Figure 3 (right)

View card of Santa Isabel and Clarence Cove c.1961



Christmas in Cameroon? Santa has Arrived!

Bob Maddocks

In the late 1900s I photographed the Post Office at Santa, North-west Province, Cameroon, situated about 9 miles south of Bamenda (Figure 1, with interesting 'SANTA - ARRIVEE' c.d.s.). It was built post-unification of the former Southern Cameroons and Cameroun Republic. It was originally opened on 25 June 1955 as a postal agency to Bamenda.



Rare Usage of Nigeria KGV £1 Values in Cameroons

Bob Maddocks

I illustrate as Figures 1 and 2 (at 120%) two rare uses of Nigerian £1 definitives in the Cameroons. Figure 1 is of a 1917 £1 purple & black/red, SG 12a, cancelled BUEA / NIGERIA / 17 OC 10. Figure 2 illustrates a 1936 £1 black & orange, SG 45, cancelled TIKO - CAMEROONS / UNDER BRITISH MANDATE / 19 FE / 38.



Figure 1
c.d.s. of Buea, Nigeria, 17.10.19



Figure 2
c.d.s of Tiko, Cameroons, 19.2.38

The Robert C. Deakin St Helena Collection Sale

Bernard Mabbett

On 12 July 2011 Spink held the sale of the Robert C. Deakin St Helena collection. There were 218 lots including early postal history, stamps and stamped covers with a fine section of Anglo-Boer War material. The sale commenced at 3pm and although there were only 13 room bidders (myself and Barry Burns included) many items were hotly contested with a large number of telephone and on-line bidders.

It would be impossible to list all the fine items that were sold, but I list some of the more important items together with pre-sale estimates and prices realised; these do not include the buyers premium of 20% plus VAT.



Lot 2



Lot 14

| Lot | | Estimate | Realised |
|-----|---|------------|----------|
| 2 | 1818 Entire letter to Quarter Master Sergeant James Rayside, H.M. 66 th Regiment | £1000-1200 | £1500 |
| 6 | 1831 Long cross written letter to Aberdeenshire, endorsed on reverse "Forwarded by your Obed. Servant S. Solomon, St. Helena" | £300-400 | £400 |
| 9 | 1845 Long cross written letter to Trincomalee, Ceylon endorsed on the reverse "Forwarded from St. Helena by your Obt. Servant S. Solomon" | £350-400 | £300 |
| 11 | 1857 Entire to Amsterdam with red oval St Helena date stamp, with "U. S. PKT" handstamp | £250-300 | £650 |
| 14 | 1866 incoming cover from the USA to Charles W. Parker, Master of the Whale Ship <i>Laconia</i> | £500-600 | £1400 |



Lot 16

| | | | |
|----|---|----------|-------|
| 16 | 1856 6d blue, horizontal pair with 17mm sheet margin at left, and good to large margins | £600-800 | £1600 |
|----|---|----------|-------|



Lot 19



Lot 24

| Lot | | Estimate | Realised |
|-----|---|------------|----------|
| 19 | 1861 Rough perf. 14 to 16 6d blue, block of six, large part original gum | £1000-1500 | £2900 |
| 24 | 1863 1d lake, SG 4, block of six with large part o.g. | £400-600 | £1400 |
| 33 | 1864-80 4d carmine SG 14a, double surcharge with Brandon certificate | £1000-1500 | £1300 |
| 52A | 1884-94 2½d ultramarine, SG 40 var. horizontal pair with the right-hand stamp with variety "bar omitted" | £200-250 | £500 |
| 75 | 1961 Tristan Relief Fund set, SG 172-175, unmounted mint, all marginal copies | £2500-3000 | £4000 |
| 81 | 1863 blue envelope to London rated "5" and bearing 1856 6d and oval date stamp in black | £800-900 | £950 |
| 84 | 1865 envelope via England to Madras, redirected to Bellary franked 1/4d with lanna applied for re-direction | £1000-1200 | £1300 |
| 86 | 1868 envelope to London rated "4" and bearing 1868 4d carmine pair each cancelled with figure "2" | £1800-2000 | £2500 |



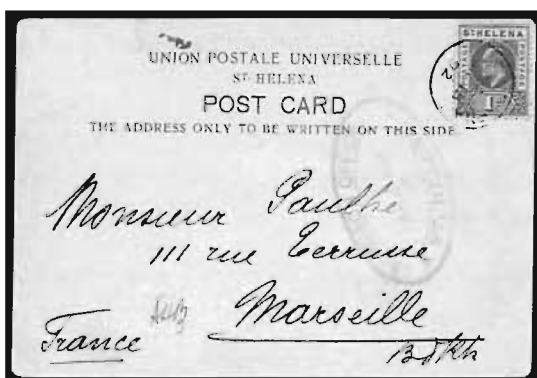
Lot 87



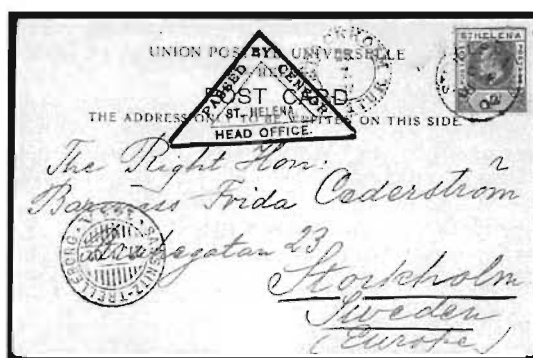
Lot 95

| | | | |
|----|--|-------------|-------|
| 87 | 1868 envelope to France rated "4" bearing 1861 6d and 1868 2d, stamps cancelled by the "2" handstamp | £3000-4000 | £5000 |
| 95 | 1876 United States Consulate envelope rated "7½d", but franked 8d as St Helena had no ½d stamps until 1884 | £1400-£1600 | £2100 |

| Lot | | Estimate | Realised |
|-----|---|------------|----------|
| 130 | Cork cancellations collection, 237 stamps from a variety of issues offering a wide range of the various types | £1200-1500 | £1900 |
| 132 | 1914-38 Collection of covers and cards (34) including Badge Issue 7/6 (2nd printing!) on cover to S. Rhodesia | £600-800 | £2100 |
| 144 | 1895 Soldier's cover to England | £1200-1500 | £1400 |
| 146 | 1896 Handpainted essays in two differing designs showing Jamestown Harbour, both executed in crimson-lake | £4000-5000 | £4500 |
| 160 | 1901 censored envelopes (2) to High Knoll Fort | £300-400 | £650 |



Lot 167



Lot 181

| | | | |
|-----|--|----------|------|
| 167 | 1902 picture postcard to France with "GARRISON OFFICE/ST. HELENA" double oval cachet in violet | £150-200 | £550 |
| 179 | Scandinavian Corps 1900 envelope from Norway franked 20ö | £200-250 | £400 |
| 181 | 1902 picture postcard to Stockholm with Type 6 censor cachet | £300-400 | £600 |



Lot 212



Lot 214

| | | | |
|-----|---|------------|-------|
| 212 | 1902 mourning envelope to Ahmednagar Fort, India with Type 4 Passed Press / Censor cachet initialled "PR" | £250-300 | £700 |
| 214 | 1901 envelope from Berlin with black Type 7 triangular "PASSED/CENSOR/ST. HELENA" | £1500-2000 | £1700 |

All of us who attended the sale came away reasonably happy with our purchases, although a little disappointed that we did not get all we would have liked to have bought. Thanks to Spink for allowing the publication of several images from this sale.

Editor's note: The unsold lots from this sale (not that many!), together with the second portion of Bob Deakin's Anglo-Boer War collection, will be sold at Spink's as part of their Autumn Collector's Series on 9/10 November 2011. - Barry Burns



Tristan da Cunha Postage Rates

Barry Burns FRPSL

I am unable to publish the full schedule of postage rates, but members may wish to know the following basic rates, thanks to information received early September 2011 from Mrs Iris Green of the Tristan da Cunha Post Office & Philatelic Bureau.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Surface Mail | £0.25 for up to 20g letter £0.20 for a postcard |
| Air Mail | £0.25 for the first 10g letter £0.35 for a 20g letter £0.25 for a postcard |
| Registration Fee | £0.50 |

Ascension Island Postage Rates

Barry Burns FRPSL

In order to complete a survey of South Atlantic postage rates I contacted the Postmistress of Ascension in early September, but at the time of going to print I have not had a response. However, the following information is posted on the Post Office and Philatelic Bureau website: www.postoffice.gov.ac but there are no details of surface mail.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Air Mail | |
| Letters | £0.40 for the first 10g £0.50 for a 20g letter £0.30 for each additional 20g or part thereof |
| Postcards | £0.35 for a postcard |
| Printed Matter | £0.30 for the first 20g £0.20 for each additional 20g or part thereof |
| Small Packets | £1.00 for the first 100g or part thereof £0.20 for each additional 20g or part thereof |
| Registration Fee | £0.50 |



International Reply Coupons in Exhibitions

Keith Hanman

In *Cameo* 83 (June 2011) you very kindly printed on the front cover my International Reply Coupon of Sierra Leone, together with information on p107 in which I mentioned that such items cannot be shown competitively because of FIP Regulations. It would appear that I was incorrect in this thinking.

The latest edition of *The Postal Stationery Society Journal* (Volume 19, Number 3, August 2011 p3) publishes a letter from Lars Engelbrecht, Secretary for the FIP Postal Stationery Commission, in which he indicates that these, and other items, are allowable under the Regulations. The letter is reproduced below.

This has opened up a whole new discipline in collecting postal stationery. I have spoken to Chris King who is the National Exhibitions Manager on the Executive Committee of the ABPS, who agrees with Lars. Michael Lockton, currently Chairman of the PSS, will write of it in the next edition of the *PSS Journal*.

Lars Engelbrecht, Secretary, FIP Postal Stationery Commission writes:

After reading our Chairman's Chat in the May issue, I would - as Secretary in the FIP Postal Stationery Commission -like to comment.

First of all, I hope that everybody collects the things they find interesting - and do not limit by any rules or regulations. It is definitely not the intention of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission to set any limits in anybody's collecting areas. Collect what you think is fun!

When you go from collecting to exhibiting there are regulations. Just as in sports, we need to have rules that we all play by in order to make a fair judgment. The FIP postal stationery regulations consist of a definition of postal stationery (what can be exhibited and what cannot), how an exhibit can be composed and how an exhibit is judged. Besides the regulations there are guidelines that give the exhibitors and jurors a deeper explanation of the regulations. I can suggest all postal stationery collectors with an interest in exhibiting read the regulations and guidelines (see the Commission website: www.postalstationery.org).

And then back to the definition: Like all other classes the postal stationery class has a definition of what can be included in an exhibit. My experience is that in 99.5% of all exhibits this is not an issue because the exhibitor shows items that are clearly postal stationery. Only a few times I have experienced that exhibits entered in the postal stationery class show mainly items that are not regarded as postal stationery (most often postcards without an imprinted stamp). And it is the essence of the definition of postal stationery that there needs to be imprinted stamp. The FIP definition of postal stationery is: "Postal Stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid". And following this definition, postcards without an imprinted stamp are not postal stationery but postcards. Are they interesting and collectable? Yes! I collect them myself. Can they be exhibited? Yes, but not in the postal stationery class, because they are not postal stationery.

But there are some items that are not strictly falling in under the definition that are mentioned as acceptable in exhibits:

Formula stationery: A number of countries issued so called "formula" items which were sold to the public bearing adhesive stamps, as fore-runners to the issue of postal stationery items with impressed stamps. These formula items can be included in postal stationery exhibits.

Non value indicators: More recently a growing number of Postal Administrations have introduced postal stationery which, while sold to the public at a specific price, merely indicates that a particular service/postage rate has been prepaid without indication of value - termed "non value indicators" (NV1). Such material is appropriately included in exhibits of postal stationery.

And the regulations also say that the following items can be exhibited: Telegraph Forms, Money Orders/Postal Orders/ Postal Notes and **International Reply Coupons**. (*my emphasis, Keith*)

And then the guidelines mention the following items as not accepted in the postal stationery class: Unstamped formula items (others than those mentioned before), unstamped military stationery, unstamped postal administration stationery, official franks, meter post impressions and privately generated "Postage Paid Impressions" are all considered outside the definition.

This is the official FIP definition of postal stationery. But again I hope that you will collect the items you find interesting, no matter the exhibiting definition.'

The full regulations may be found at: www.postalstationery.org

St Helena Reversed 'R' Registered Handstamp Revisited

Registered Mail from the Island - 12 June 1899

Alan Stone

I wrote about this interesting registration handstamp in an earlier *Cameo* (Ref. 1), and present here my findings since then, with the assistance of several WASC members. The purple reversed 'R' registered handstamp was used on mail posted to A.E.J. Ackerman of Banbury, from St Helena on 12 June 1899, and carried Bristol and Banbury transit marks of 30 June 1899. By 5 August 1899 and subsequent postings the cork cancellation was in the corrected form.

Bernard Mabbett referred to these covers in his book of St Helena postal markings (Ref. 2) and mentioned that a series of covers showing a large reversed 'R' struck in violet had all been posted on 12 June 1899, having registration numbers between 57 and 147. I have subsequently acquired covers with registration numbers 149 and 151, and I am grateful for the further details received from Barry Burns, Bob Deakin, Dennis Engblom and Bernard Mabbett.

If one assumes that all covers between registration numbers 57 and 151 were issued on 12 June 1899, with consecutive reversed 'R' handstamps, then 95 covers would have existed. To date I have been able to trace 40 copies for which I have 37 actual covers or photocopies. I suspect that a number of the original covers would have had stamps taken from them for collections, so are lost for ever in an on-cover state.

The covers are written in two different hands, one large and the other smaller. The larger style is illustrated on the front cover, and the smaller style in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 Smaller handwriting, registration No. 151

Table 1 lists a summary of the covers I have seen. There is a view that the covers were contrived, the reversed R (in frame) being slightly larger than the normal R (in frame).

Notes to Table 1, opposite

76* Described in the Cavendish Auction catalogue of 29/11/2006, but no picture seen

103* Described in the Harmers Auction catalogue of 8/3/1989, but only a partial picture seen

127* Described on the internet as being part of a UK based auction catalogue in 1995 and referenced Plate 25

| Reg. No. | Stamps on Cover | Hand Writing | Position Rev. 'R' | Elevation Rev. 'R' |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 57 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| 58 | 2d Yellow (39) and 1d Red | Small | Lower Left | Upright |
| 62 | 3 x 1d Red | Small | Lower Left | Upright |
| 64 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 67 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 70 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 71 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 74 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 76* | 2 x ½d Green (Horiz Pr) & 2d Yellow (39) | ?* | ?* | ?* |
| 78 | 4 x ½d Green and 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 86 | 3 x 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 91 | 2 x 4d | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 99 | 2 x 3d on 6d Deep Reddish Violet (42) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 102 | 2 x 4d | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 103* | 2 x 4d (SG 43a – Now 43c) | Large | Lower Left | ?* |
| 104 | 2 x 2½d Ultramarine (40) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 106 | 2 x 2½d Ultramarine (40) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 110 | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 113 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 114 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 115 | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 118 | 3 x 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 119 | 3 x 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 120 | 3 x 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 121 | 2 x ½d Green (36) and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 123 | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 127* | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | ?* | ?* | ?* |
| 129 | 2 x 2½d Ultramarine (40) | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 133 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Small | Lower Left | Upright |
| 134 | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| 136 | 3 x 1d Red | Large | Lower Right | Upright |
| 137 | 1d Red and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Lower Right | Upright(?) |
| 138 | 2 x ½d Green and 2d Yellow (39) | Large | Middle Right | Upright |
| 139 | 4 x ½d Green and 1d Red | Large | Lower Left | Upright |
| 140 | 2 x ½d Green and 2 x 1d Red | Large | Middle Left | Upright |
| 145 | 4 x ½d Green (36) and 1d Red (37) | Small | Upper Left | Inverted |
| 147 | 6 x ½d Green (36) | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| 148 | 3 x 1d Red | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| 149 | 2 x 1d Red (Pair) (38) and 2 x ½d Green (Pair) (36) | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| 151 | 6 x ½d Green (Strip) | Small | Lower Right | Upright |
| | | | | |
| 40 | TOTAL (Covers No's 57-151 = 95) | | | |

Table 1 Covers recorded to date (for notes see opposite)

The larger hand accounts for 28 covers (24 have the reversed 'R' in the lower left, 2 in the lower right, 1 middle left and 1 middle right), and the smaller hand 10 covers, (6 have the reversed 'R' placed in the lower right, 3 in the lower left and 1 upper left and upside down). It would probably not be unreasonable to assume that, due to the number of covers written in the larger hand, then that belonged to Archie Ackerman. I may be wrong but a similar view is shared by Dennis Engblom who has corresponded with me and stated 'My conjecture is that Mr. Ackerman, and I do not know which hand was his (although I think the large hand), had an associate who helped him with the chore of addressing some ninety covers'. Dennis also has a very interesting theory in that he believes that the associate could have been W. Mussen, as he has 6 covers addressed to W. Mussen in the same small handwriting. (*agreed - Barry Burns*)

I would be grateful for any further information on covers held by members that have the purple reversed 'R' registered handstamp, and if possible a scanned copy of the cover to add to the data base. If requested, I will happily send details of the covers I have recorded to any member who provides me with additional information.

Special thanks to Barry Burns, Bob Deakin, Dennis Engblom and Bernard Mabbett for information.

I can be contacted on the following E-mail: aljostone@msn.com
Alan Stone, Oxford (details on Membership List)

References:

- 1 Stone Alan, "St Helena Reversed 'R' Registered Purple Handstamp....", *Cameo*, Vol. 11 pp313-314, WASC, June 2010
- 2 Mabbett B., *St Helena; The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000*, p74, WASC, Dronfield 2002
Justine Collection from St. Helena (Phoenix International Sale 90 – 6th March 1993)

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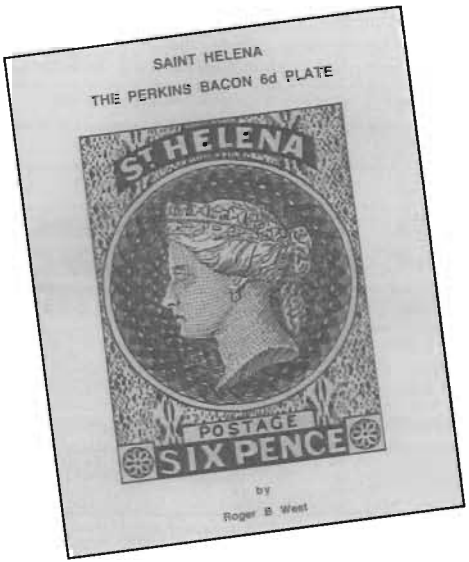
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Bogus Printing on Oil Rivers Postcard?

John Gledhill

This article first appeared in *The Overprinter*, Autumn 2011/3, and is reproduced with permission of the author and editor.



Figure 1

Can anybody cast light on this 'Oil Rivers' postcard that appeared on eBay 4 or 5 years ago? (Figure 1). It is also only a low resolution image. It bears an 1894 OLD CALABAR postmark, and was sent to Addlestone, Surrey, just south west of London. It was sold as 'probably forged'.

The seller's doubt is caused by the fact that in addition to a normal 'OIL RIVERS' overprint the card also bears a partial imprint for St Vincent (the stamp and the word 'SIDE' in line 4 are missing). Peter Horlyck suggested to me that if the St Vincent text seems to match that on real St Vincent postal cards (which it does), possibly

somebody photocopied it from a real card onto an Oil Rivers card. However that would have meant masking out the St Vincent stamp and the word 'SIDE'. Comparing this item with a genuine St Vincent postcard (Figure 2) the rest of the narrative looks exactly (?) the same.

A further complication is that the St Vincent text is far too near the top edge and is in black, whereas the normal St Vincent cards (1882-93) are in green (½d), red (1d), and brown (1½d).

The most likely explanation appears to me (with which my colleague Terry Harrison, a St Vincent specialist, and dealer Chris Rainey agree) is that it was originally printer's waste for a St Vincent card, which somehow found its way into use for first a BRITISH 1d postcard to be printed on it, then an Oil Rivers overprint added, the card sent out to Old Calabar, and issued in the normal way without anybody questioning the extra text. Although that sounds a convoluted series of actions, it would not be the only time that misprinted British items were 'used up' for overprinting (*The Overprinter* 2009/4, p115). Though the illicit photocopying of a St Vincent narrative (clearly more recently than 1894) is still a strong contender.

Views welcomed!



Figure 2

Genuine
St Vincent card

(courtesy of
Chris Rainey)

A Question of Colour - St Helena SG 157

Michael Boatman

I have a mint copy of the 2½d value (SG 157) from the 1953 definitive set of St Helena in which the frame colour is considerably different to normal. This is illustrated as Figure 1, with the normal stamp as Figure 2.



Figure 1 Colour variant



Figure 2 SG 157

The 2½d value is listed by Gibbons as black and red, and by Commonwealth (CW 22) as black and vermillion. However, my colour variant is more a yellow-orange, and not unlike the 10/- value of the same set.

I can confirm that the perforations are the same on both examples as is the watermark; the paper and gum are more buff than white on the yellow stamp. The gum has minor blemishes on the variant but no obvious signs of being mounted.

Although possibly a result of colour 'manipulation' or changeling, I would be interested to know if other examples have been recorded.



TPO Cancel on Sierra Leone KGVI Postal Card

Keith Hanman

I was extremely delighted to obtain recently this commercially used George VI ½d postal card of 1938 (Figure 1). Some 6156 were printed by De La Rue (5100 on 25 July 1938 and a further 1056 on 26 September 1939) with 397 Specimen overprints measuring 41 x 3.75 mm, embossed, probably by thermography (Fig. 2).



Figure 1
(right)

Posted 1944
with TPO &
Censor markings

In spite of the large print run, this card is one of the most difficult items of used postal stationery to obtain, along with the Queen Elizabeth II 3d envelope in used condition. Two other tricky ones, also used, are the Edward VII and George V reply post cards.

The example shown has been uprated to the 2d rate for sea mail, as originally the ½d rate was for internal use only. Posted at Segbwema on 20 December 1944 to Scotland, it has a standard 'Passed by Censor QQ/2' violet cachet. However, the cancellation is interesting - two TPO marks of Bo - Pendembu, one over the value tablet and another over the adhesive.

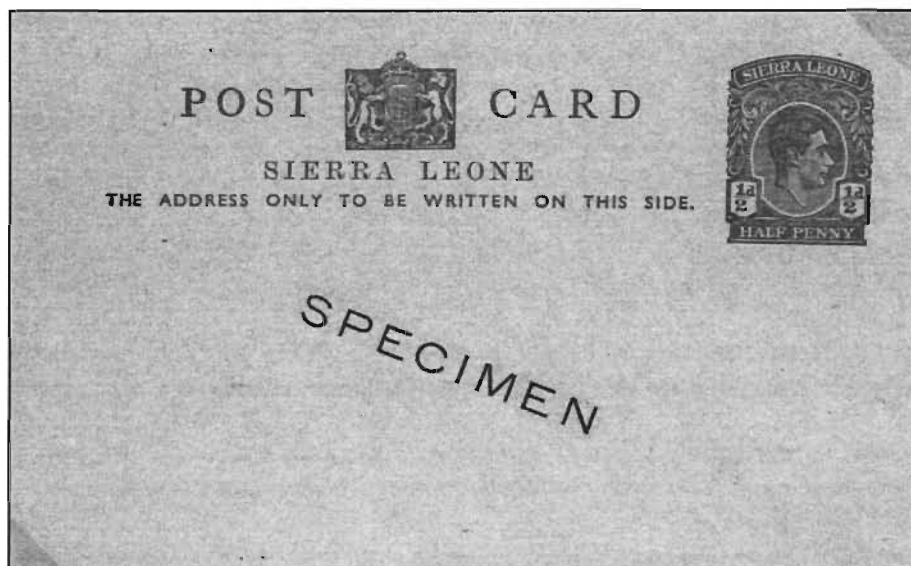


Figure 2
(left)

SPECIMEN
card



Styles of Post Office Buildings in Nigeria

Dr Simon Heap

The magazine *Nigeria* occasionally reproduced photographs of post offices in the 1940s, which reveal the different styles of architecture of these public buildings within the country. Here are three different buildings designated as Post Offices.

The first (Fig. 1) is from the old part of Kano City in the north of the country: the Native Administration postal agency was a mud building with walls covered in intricate swirled patterns, to which a 'POST OFFICE' sign was attached above the door. Here a merchant on horseback calls at the Post Office, which had first opened in 1937. (Ref. 1)

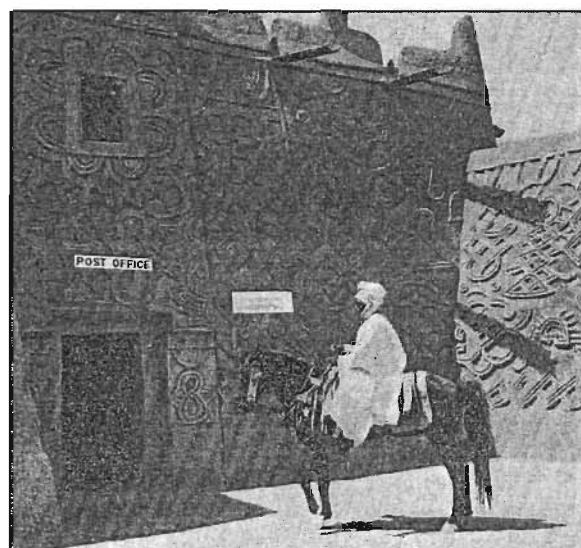


Figure 1

Source:

"The Moslem Areas of Northern Nigeria under British Rule", *Nigeria*, 22 p41, 1944

In the south, with its corrugated iron roof, the two-storey private postal agency of Isheri, a village on the banks of the Ogun River between Abeokuta and Lagos, shows the rural type of post office. (Fig. 2) It had opened on 17 September 1945.



Figure 2
Isheri

Source: *Nigeria*, 24 p205, 1946

South of Isheri, but still on the Lagos mainland was Agege. (Figure 3) With 'POST OFFICE' inscribed on its façade, here the separate, purpose-built building attracted the view of architect Ole Hoeck:

An attempt has been made here to produce an attractive entrance for the Post Office, but it is not true architecture for Southern Nigeria. It is an Arabic interpretation of Ancient Greek architecture produced by a modern British architect. (Ref. 2)



Figure 3
Agege

Source: Ole Hoeck,
"Looking at Houses through
the Eyes of an Architect",
Nigeria, 29 p231, 1948

A couple of years later, the frontage and surrounds were used again by E.H. Duckworth to illustrate the point that "many public buildings in Nigeria could be much improved in appearance by planting the surrounding land with grass and shrubs." (Ref. 3) Duckworth commented on both the inside and outside of the post office:

Agege is a well-built post office and inside is a mural painting by the African artist, Akinola Lasekan [1916-74]. This application of African art to a building erected by the Public Works department is unique. It is a great pity that the view of the painting has been hampered by the erection of a partition and that the building, of some architectural merit, is set in an untidy compound completely bare of all vegetation. (Ref. 4)

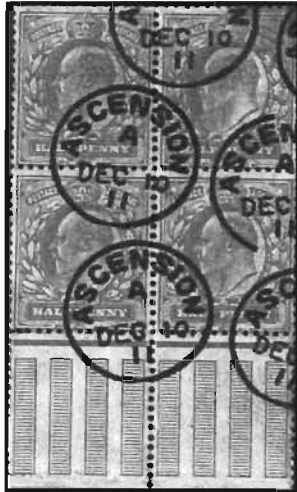
References

- 1 *Nigeria Posts and Telegraphs Department Annual Report*, 1937, p3
- 2 Hoeck, "Looking at Houses Through the Eyes of an Architect", p231
- 3 Duckworth E.H., "Thoughts and Observations during a Journey by Car from Lagos to Abuja", *Nigeria*, 33, p96, 1950)
- 4 *ibid*, p97

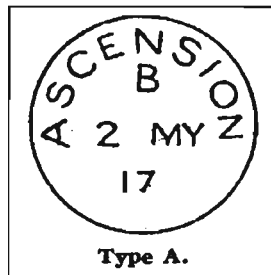
Ascension Forged Postmarks

Bill Thorpe

There have been a few forged Ascension postmarks on eBay recently, all being described as forgeries. As items like this do not appear very often it may be of use to identify such items for future reference.



This block of stamps (Fig. 1), Harrison Perf 14 (Z21) appeared first. The obvious 'giveaway' is the 'DEC' in the date, as the normal abbreviation for December is 'DE'. Ford (Ref. 1) gives an example of a c.d.s. that was used during this period (Fig. 2). The example on the block is similar, but 'DEC 11' is not between the 'A' and 'N' of Ascension.



In the table on pages 56-57 of Ford's book the 'A' Index Letter does not seem to have been used in 1911. The cancel on this example is 21mm in diameter, but this size was only used in the 1870s and again between 1913-1919.

If the cancellations on this block were genuine then it would possibly be worth several hundred pounds.

Figure 1 (above left)
Figure 2 (above right) Illustration from Ford

The second pair of stamps (Fig. 3) show the same postmark, but on ½d and 7d values, and so the above comments also apply here. If the postmark was genuine, then the 7d (Z31) would be catalogued at £425. Not surprisingly it cost only a few pounds.



Figure 3

The last example, of a QV Penny red (Fig. 4), is what would be Z2, and catalogued from £2500. The stamp is genuine, and appears to be Plate No 160 (?) which is one of the plates mentioned by Gibbons (Ref 2). The diameter for the postmark for 1872-78 should be 21½mm, but this is 21mm, although the 'A' is correct. The Z2 illustration in the catalogue also has the top line of the date slightly offset to the left. However, Ford (Ref 1), in the table at page 56, has a 21mm diameter postmark being recorded for 1874! As the stamp only cost a fiver, I have no doubt that it is a forgery.



Figure 4 1858-1879 One Penny Red

I hope that this information may prevent a purchase that may not be quite the bargain it seems.

References

- 1 Ford Eric H., *The History and Postage Stamps of Ascension Island*, p55, Author, Bromley 1933
- 2 *SG Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970*, 2011 edition, Stanley Gibbons, London 2010



Gold Coast King George VI Plate Numbers

Jeremy Martin FRPSL & John Powell

Peter Duggan wrote about Gold Coast plate numbers (Ref. 1) in *Cameo* and included those of the current reign. In March 2011, the two of us had the opportunity to study the Royal Philatelic Collection, but only the stamps of King George VI. Later issues have not yet been mounted and will not be able to be seen for many years.

We have added to Peter's listing where appropriate and we have also included commemorative issues.

| Stamp Issue | Value | Plate Numbers |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1937 Coronation | All | No plate numbers recorded |
| 1938 - 1944 Definitives | 2d | 2,2a (note 1) |
| | 1/3d | 1,1a (note 2) |
| | 10/- | 1,1a (note 2) |
| 1946 Victory | 2d perf. 13½ x 14 | (note 3) |
| | 4d perf. 13½ x 14 | 1 with current number 86 inverted |
| | 2d perf. 13½ | 1A with current number 85A inverted |
| | 2d perf. 13½ | 1B with current number 85B inverted |
| 1948 Definitives | 4d perf. 13½ | 1 with current number 86 inverted |
| | Single colour stamps | |
| | ½d | 1,1a; 2,2a; 3,3a; 4,4a |
| | 1d | 1,1a; 2,2a; 3,3a |
| Bi-coloured stamps | 1½d | 1,1a; 2,2a |
| | 2d | 1,1a; 2,2a; 3,3a; 4,4a |
| | 3d | 1,1a |
| | 4d | 1,1a |
| | 2½d | 2 1; 2a 1a; 3 1; 3a 1a |
| | 6d | 1 1; 1a 1a |
| | 1/- | 1 1; 1a 1a |
| 1948 Silver Wedding | 2/- | 1 1; 1a 1a |
| | 5/- | 1 1; 1a 1a |
| | 10/- | 1 1; 1a 1a |
| | 1½d | 1 (note 4) |
| | 10/- | 1;1a (note 5) |
| 1949 UPU | 2d | 1 |
| | 2½d | 1A |
| | 3d | 1 |
| | 1/- | 1 |

For notes see opposite, p175

Notes

- 1 Michael Ensor (Ref. 2) mentions a 1d value with plate numbers 2 and 2a. Can anyone verify this?
- 2 For the 1/3d and 10/- values the Royal Philatelic Collection has blocks of four of each value with just 1 or 1a. Michael Ensor's note (Ref. 2) suggests that the duty and vignette were both 1 and 1a. However, Robin Davis has wondered if the vignette plate was one without a plate number, with the duty plate being 1 or 1a. This occurs with some Cyprus issues.
- 3 The 2d value perforated 13½ x 14. Has anyone seen this stamp with a plate number?
- 4 The 1½d value. Are any other plate numbers known?
- 5 The 10/- plate 1a was illustrated in an advertisement by Goldcast (Philatelics), page 7, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, June 1989.

Our thanks to Michael Sefi, FRPSL, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection for allowing us to view the stamps, and to Rod Vousden, Assistant to the Keeper, for his help as we studied the material.

References

- 1 Duggan, P., "Gold Coast Definitives, 1938-57 - plate numbers", *Cameo*, Volume 11 p264, WASC, January 2010
- 2 Ensor M. (Ed), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957*, p52, WASC, Dronfield 1998

Scarce (?) Ascension Paquebot Mark

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

I came across this cover (Fig. 1) in a dealer's junk lot! On the reverse is a note that it is from 'Miss I. Wallis, passenger, *St Helena*'.

It would seem that Miss Wallis bought the stamp at St Helena, wrote the letter onboard the RMS *St Helena*, which was then unloaded at Ascension where the stamp received the Ascension c.d.s. of 31 August 1979 and probably also the PAQUEBOT mark. It will have been flown by air from there to the UK. The Paquebot mark is ca. 33mm in length and does not seem to be listed in the standard literature, including Attwood (Ref. 1) and Hosking (Ref. 2).



Figure 1

Barry Burns responds: I agree that this Paquebot mark is not recorded by Attwood. On looking at my copy of Hosking, he does actually list and illustrate a fairly similar example to this as Type 2644, page 249. However, this appears to be of solid lettering whereas Jeremy's example appears to consist of fine lines surrounding each letter.

In addition, Hosking gives the dimension as 31mm, but the illustration he provides is 34mm. Unfortunately Hosking fails to define the parameters of his measurements, and the only way I can interpret Type 2644 as 31mm is to measure from the centre of the P to the centre of the T - surely not the way most of us measure handstamps etc.?

The closest example I have found to that on Jeremy's cover was illustrated in an early St Helena & Ascension Supplement (Ref. 3), which I illustrate here as Figure 2. This cover dates from 1983, and again appears to have been posted on board ship and off-loaded at Ascension for onward air transmission.

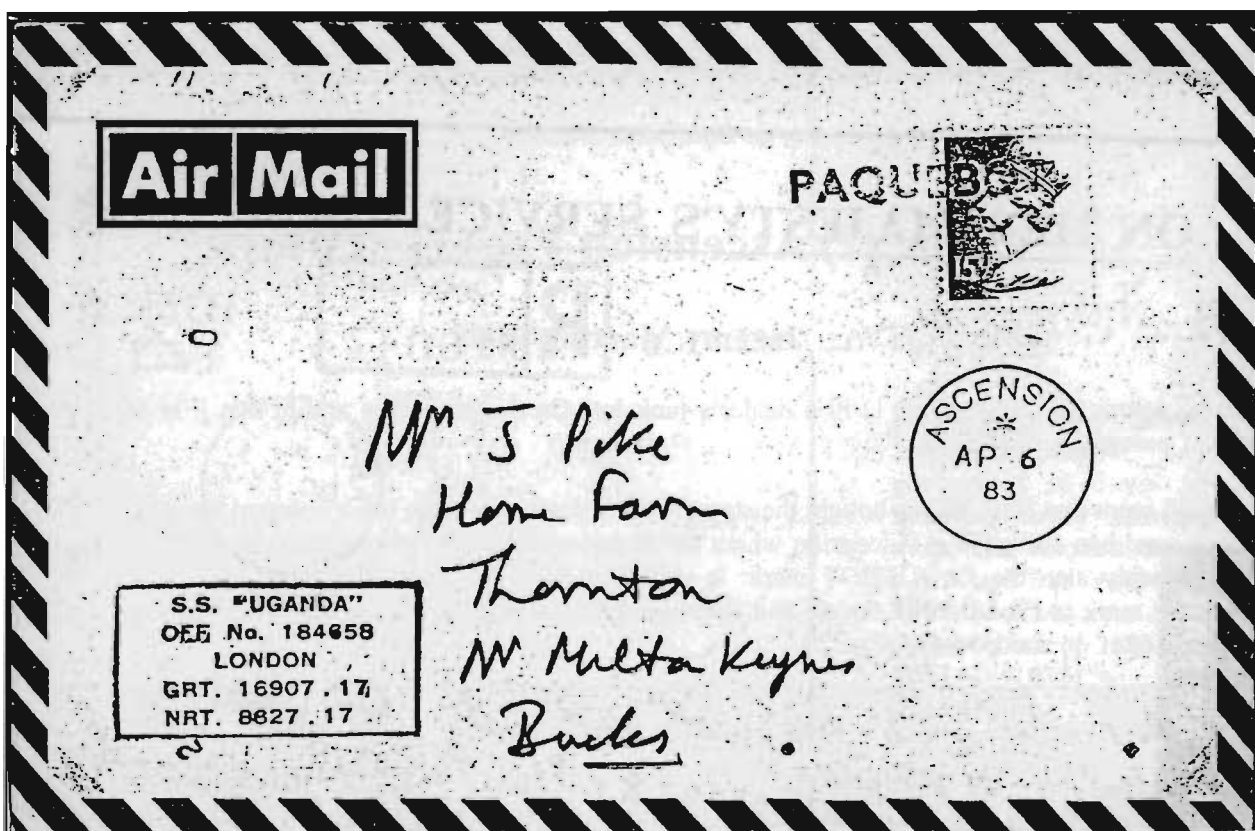


Figure 2

Cover of 1983 posted on board SS Uganda

Jeremy and I will be interested to hear of further examples, or alternative conclusions to our own.

References

- 1 Attwood J.H., *Ascension - The Stamps and Postal History*, Robson Lowe, London 1981
- 2 Hosking Roger, *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 3rd edition, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd., 2000
- 3 Attwood John, "A Study of Ascension Airmail British & American", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement* No. 16, WASC, July 1991



An Uncommon Bilingual Postal Service Handstamp Found on Cameroon Mail

Bob Maddocks

Recently I came across this rather distressed remnant of the front of an air mail envelope (Fig. 1, at 85%). The entire had originated from Cameroon in 1962, seemingly addressed to an overseas destination but thereafter returned undelivered to sender. The latter's name, however, though likely written on the missing back of the envelope, is not known or, indeed, are the name and address of the addressee as these details have been roughly torn off the envelope front. All that remains is the piece bearing the original franking thereon.

The entire was mailed from Tiko, Cameroon, with estimated contents weighing 2oz and destined perhaps to such as a North American address. The franking was 7/- which, according to the then postal tariff (1962) applicable to West Cameroon, represented 1/9d per each ½oz air mail to North America. The stamps affixed were 4 x 3d plus 6 x 1/- of the Cameroon Republic overprinted 'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE' and with sterling values. Each stamp had been postmarked 'TIKO / CAMEROUN / 22.1.1962'. Apart from one, they had also been scored through by biro pen at some point unknown.

The particular interest here lies in the straight line bilingual postal service handstamp twice applied on the piece in black. It reads 'NO POST OFFICE GIVEN / LE BUREAU N'EST PAS INDIQUE'. Again the point of application is obscure but I doubt that it would have been in Cameroon itself - outgoing overseas mail would normally have been sorted by country of destination not by towns therein.

Why was this very rarely seen handstamp used? Quite probably, the mailing was addressed to the addressee at a Post Office Box Number but the sender had omitted the name of the town at whose Post Office that Box was held. The omission was likely noted at the destination's incoming overseas mail sorting centre and, with no possibility of completing delivery, the letter was thus returned to sender.

Perhaps a reader can throw further light on the matter?



Figure 1

Envelope remnant bearing 10 Cameroon stamps overprinted REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE and sterling values, postmarked Tiko, Cameroun 22.1.1962 and bearing two strikes of a bilingual service handstamp
'NO POST OFFICE GIVEN / LE BUREAU N'EST PAS INDIQUE'

New St Helena Postage Rates

Barry Burns

With very special thanks to the St Helena Postmaster Ronald Coleman, I can reproduce the following Ordinance which came into effect on 1 September 2011.

Legal Notice No. of 2011

ST. HELENA



POST OFFICE ORDINANCE, CAP. 108

POST OFFICE (RATES OF CHARGE) ORDER, 2011

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance, Cap. 108, the Governor in Council makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This order may be cited as the Post Office (Rates of Charge) Order, 2011, and shall come into force on the 1st day of September 2011.

Rates for external mail

2. The rates of postage and other charges on postal packets sent to external destinations from the Post Office of St. Helena shall be those set out in the First Schedule to this order.

Internal postage rates

3. The rates of postage and other charges on postal packets sent from the Post Office to internal destinations of St. Helena, shall be those set out in the Second Schedule to this order.

Revocation

4. The Post Office (Rates of Charge) Order, 2007, is revoked.

FIRST SCHEDULE
EXTERNAL POSTAL RATES AND OTHER CHARGES

PART I

Surface Mail

| | International | Ascension |
|---|--|-----------|
| | £ | £ |
| (i) Letters— | | |
| For the first 20 grammes or part thereof | 0.35 | 0.20 |
| above 20g up to 50g | 0.70 | 0.40 |
| above 50g up to 100g | 1.00 | 0.60 |
| above 100g up to 250g | 1.20 | 0.80 |
| above 250g up to 500g | 2.00 | 1.50 |
| above 500g up to 1000g | 3.00 | 2.25 |
| above 1000g up to 1500g | 4.00 | 3.00 |
| above 1500g up to 2000g | 6.00 | 4.50 |
| (Maximum weight 2kg) | | |
| (ii) Postcards— | 0.30 | 0.20 |
| (iii) Printed matter— | | |
| For the first 20 grammes or part thereof | 0.30 | 0.20 |
| above 20g up to 100g | 0.60 | 0.40 |
| above 100g up to 250g | 1.00 | 0.60 |
| above 250g up to 500g | 1.50 | 1.00 |
| above 500g up to 1000g | 1.75 | 1.50 |
| above 1000g up to 2000g | 3.00 | 2.00 |
| each additional 1000g | 1.00 | 0.60 |
| (Maximum weight: papers 2kg, books and pamphlets 5kg) | | |
| (iv) Small packets— | | |
| For the first 100 grammes or part thereof | 0.60 | 0.50 |
| above 100g up to 250g | 1.00 | 0.70 |
| above 250g up to 500g | 1.50 | 1.20 |
| above 500g up to 1000g | 1.75 | 1.50 |
| above 1000g up to 2000g | 3.25 | 2.00 |
| (Maximum weight 2kg) | | |
| (v) Special Charges— | | |
| a. Registration fee | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| b. Insurance premium | | |
| | 50p per £20 of the insured value or part thereof plus registration fee (Maximum insured value £1000) | |

| | | | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| (vi) | Parcels— | | | | |
| | | Great Britain or Falkland Islands | South Africa | Ascension | Other countries |
| | | £ | £ | £ | Rate of postage to |
| a. | Weight up to 3kg | 6.00 | 5.00 | 3.00 | Great |
| | above 3kg up to 4kg | 8.00 | 7.00 | 5.00 | Britain or |
| | above 4kg up to 5kg | 10.00 | 9.00 | 7.00 | South Africa |
| | above 5kg for each additional 1kg or part thereof | 2.50 | 2.00 | 1.50 | (as the case may be) plus |
| | (Maximum weight 30kg) | | | | the onward postage |
| | | | | | therefrom to |
| | | | | | the country of |
| | | | | | destination |
| b. | Insurance (via Great Britain only): 50p per £20 of the insured value or part thereof (maximum insured value £1000). | | | | |

PART II

Air Mail

To all destinations:

| | | |
|-------|--|------|
| (i) | Letters— | £ |
| | For the first 10g or part thereof | 0.50 |
| | Above 10g up to 20g | 0.60 |
| | For each additional 20g or part thereof | 0.30 |
| | (Maximum weight 2kg) | |
| (ii) | Postcards— | 0.40 |
| (iii) | Printed matter— | |
| | For the first 20 grammes or part thereof | 0.40 |
| | For each additional 20g or part thereof | 0.20 |
| | Maximum weight 2kg. 5kg for Books & Pamphlets) | |
| (iv) | Small packets— | |
| | For the first 100 grammes or part thereof | 1.20 |
| | For each additional 20g or part thereof | 0.30 |
| | (Maximum weight 2kg) | |
| (v) | Aerogrammes— | 0.85 |

SECOND SCHEDULE

INTERNAL POSTAGE RATES AND OTHER CHARGES

| | | |
|------|---|------|
| (i) | Letters, Postcards, Printed Matter and Small Packets— | |
| | For the first 25 grammes or part thereof | 0.15 |
| | each additional 50g or part thereof | 0.10 |
| | (Maximum weight 2kg) | |
| (ii) | Special charges— | |
| a. | Registration fee | 0.50 |
| b. | Recorded delivery | 0.40 |
| c. | Private Post Box | |
| | Annual fee | £5 |

Hansard - St Helena Revenue for Mails

Robert Johnson FRPSL

I have been looking through Hansard for contemporary discussion text about the Cape of Good Hope and came across the attached, which may be of interest to collectors of St Helena.

Revenue for Mails

House of Commons Debate 11 August 1882

(5.) £3,043,300 to complete the sum for Post Office.

(6.) £490,514 to complete the sum for Post Office Packet Service

Baron de Ferrieres desired to say a word, before the Vote was agreed to in reference to the conveyance of the mails to the Cape Colony, upon a matter which he had already brought under the notice of the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster General, who had promised to give it his consideration. There was, however, a point which materially concerned some of Her Majesty's officers who were stationed at St. Helena. The postage to St. Helena was 1s. for half-an-ounce, and he believed that this was an exceptional case in regard to the whole of Her Majesty's Colonies. In other cases the postage was 6d. an ounce, but at St. Helena it was 1s., and it fell very hard on the officers quartered there, and who were, in a great measure, shut out from the rest of the world. They had, as a matter of fact, sometimes to pay 3s. for a communication from England, because nearly all the packets of news sent out were bulky, and the postage often amounted to 2s. or 3s. He had mentioned this circumstance to the right hon. Gentleman, who had promised that it should be inquired into, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman would be astonished when he discovered what the real facts of the case were.

It seemed that the actual postage was only 6d. per half-ounce, and that the other 6d. went to assist the ordinary revenue of St. Helena. He (Baron De Ferrieres) thought it was monstrous that for so paltry an addition to the revenue of the Island, Her Majesty's officers quartered there should be made to pay this overcharge. It was very doubtful whether there were 1,000 letters delivered in St. Helena in the course of the year, so that the addition to the revenue of the Island derived from them would not be more than £25 per annum; and, in his opinion, it was a great hardship that the officers quartered in the Island should be called upon to pay this charge in the shape of extra postage upon their letters. He thought the Post Office Department ought to meet the requirements of the case, and bring down the charge to 6d. per half-ounce, as it was in the rest of Her Majesty's Colonies.

Mr Magniac said, he certainly thought Her Majesty's troops serving abroad ought to receive their letters at the lowest possible rate. They were performing an arduous duty for the sake of maintaining the prestige and honour of the country, and if they received their letters without charge at all, the loss to the Public Revenue would not be very considerable. He hoped that some arrangement would be made in this direction, and he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman, after giving the matter due consideration, would not be inclined to grudge even a slight loss to the Post Office.

Mr Fawcett said that: in regard to the postage to St. Helena, I am inclined to think that there is some reduction made to soldiers serving there. It is, however, scarcely a question that concerns the Post Office so much as the Treasury and the War Office. With regard to St. Helena, I have already told my hon. Friend that there is a possibility of reducing the postage to St. Helena. It is not a question which affects officers serving in Her Majesty's Army only, but the highest rate of postage affects all persons residing there. The greatest reduction would be in adopting the rate charged in the case of other Colonies - the ordinary charge of 6d. per half-ounce upon each letter.

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Air Mail from Gold Coast and Nigeria to Switzerland During World War II: Some Comments and Queries

Barbara Priddy

There was no political reason for mail not to be sent from British West Africa to Switzerland during the war: the only problem was the route. Before the entry of Italy into the war and the fall of France in June 1940, air mail from Gold Coast and Nigeria was sent, as it had been pre-war, either by Elders Colonial Airways and Imperial Airways/BOAC via Khartoum, off-loaded at Brindisi or Rome, and onward by rail to Chiasso; or by Aéromaritime and Air France via Dakar, off-loaded at Marseille, and onward by rail to Geneva.

From June 1940, however, the Mediterranean route was no longer available to BOAC aircraft and Vichy French aircraft were no longer calling in British territories. No air mail was officially accepted from Gold Coast and Nigeria for Switzerland until December 1941, when the PAA double-Atlantic route became available.

However, although no announcement was made in the Government Gazettes of either territory, it occurred to some Swiss nationals wishing to write home to their families that it should be possible to send their mail by ship to UK, thence to Lisbon by the UK-Lisbon air shuttle operated by KLM on behalf of BOAC, then by one of three routes: a) Lisbon to Italy by Ala Littoria's Lisbon-Rome service and by rail to Switzerland; b) Lisbon to Germany by DLH's Lisbon-Berlin service and by rail or air to Switzerland (Ref. 1); c) Lisbon-Barcelona by air and onward across France by road or rail to Switzerland (Ref. 2). The only route used to send mail from Switzerland to belligerent countries was a variant of this last, 'Collection at the Geneva 1 post office, rail and/or truck to Lisbon across France, Spain and Portugal' (Ref. 3), so it seems likely that this was also the route used for incoming mail from belligerent countries.



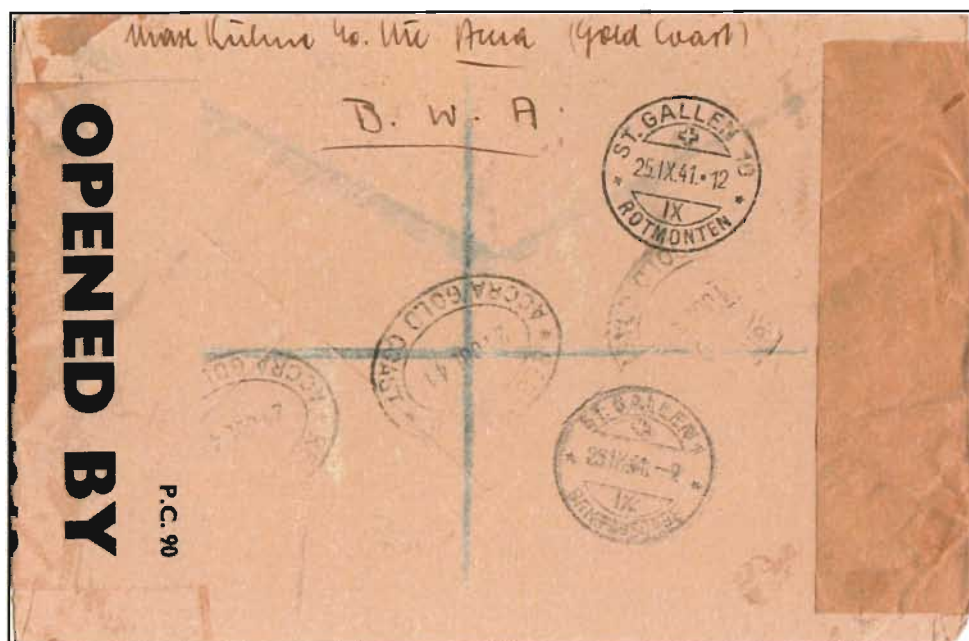
Figure 1
May 1941 cover from Gold Coast 'Via Lisbonne' to Switzerland

Figure 1 shows a cover posted at an unfortunately illegible town in Gold Coast 31 May 1941 and endorsed 'Via Lisbonne': it was censored in Accra but there is nothing to show what happened to it thereafter, except that the 'Par Avion' and 'Via Lisbonne' instructions were not cancelled, and it was not censored in Germany.



Figures 2 (above) and 3 (below, at 75%)

Figures 2 and 3 show a cover posted at Accra 21 July 1941, endorsed 'By Airmail via London - Lisbon', which arrived at its destination, St Gallen, 25 September. We know it reached London, because it was censored there by Examiner 1963; also in London it was marked 'OAT' in blue pencil for onward air transmission, which can only be to



Lisbon, and again it was not censored in Germany. Presumably both these covers travelled via France or Italy: there is no indication of where the delay to the second cover occurred.

The rates on these two covers defy analysis. Figure 1 bears 7½d, and Figure 2, registered, 9d. No Gold Coast air mail rate had been published for the route, and the franking is probably pure guesswork. The published rate for surface mail from Gold Coast to UK, Eire and Commonwealth countries was 1½d for the first ounce and 1d for each succeeding ounce, and to foreign countries 3d for the first ounce and 1½d for each succeeding ounce. The registration fee to anywhere was 3d (Ref. 4). The rate from the UK to Lisbon by air mail was 5d per ounce (Ref. 5). I have been unable to work out any combination of these rates which would result in these frankings.

In December 1941 the PAA South Atlantic route started up, and mail was accepted from Nigeria and Gold Coast for air mail to the Americas and Europe (Ref. 6). When the BOAC flying-boat service from Lagos to Poole via Freetown and Bathurst began accepting mail in mid-1942, the two countries imposed different restrictions on the acceptance of mail. Nigeria published a notice in the Gazette of 11 May 1942: 'A weekly air mail service has been arranged from Nigeria to the Gold Coast Colony, Sierra Leone, Gambia, United Kingdom and Eire only. This service is not available for air mail correspondence for European countries or for North and South America which will continue to be forwarded "via Pan American" at the rates already published....Owing to the limited space available for the carriage of this mail no letter must exceed half an ounce in weight' (Ref. 7). There is no mention of letters being limited to one a week, but the weight restriction was not lifted until July 1944 (Ref. 8).

Figures 4 (below) and 5 (page 190) show a cover posted from Barakin Ladi to Verscio at the normal rate: 5/- by PAA Lagos - Europe + 3d registration fee. Posted 30 October 1942, it was sent via Jos, 30 October, by rail to Kano, 1 November, and Lagos, at one of which it was censored. It was then sent by the PAA South Atlantic service to Miami, 22 November, and New York, 23 November. It should then have been flown straight across to Lisbon by the PAA North Atlantic service, but at this point it became caught up in the effects of Operation Torch

In response to the Allied landings in North Africa and the cessation of resistance to the Allies throughout French North and West Africa, the Germans had occupied the whole of France, there was no route from USA to Switzerland except through Axis territory, and the US Government had put an embargo on all mail to Switzerland, except PoW mail and Red Cross messages.



Figure 4 October 1942 registered cover from Nigeria via Miami to Switzerland

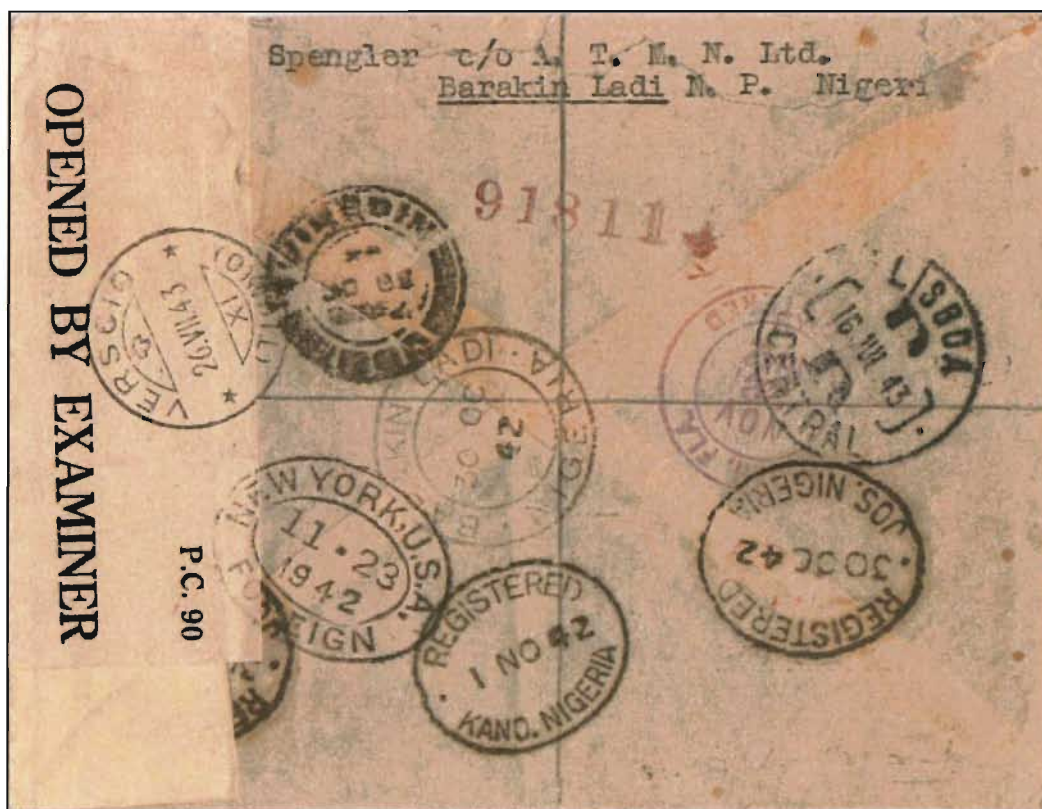


Figure 5 Reverse of the October 1942 registered cover from Nigeria

The exact date of the embargo is not yet known, but the last Clipper air mail from the USA for Switzerland was received in Lisbon 11 November 1942 (Ref. 3) (i.e. three days after the Allied landings and the same day that the German troops occupied southern France). Mail was not only stopped from leaving New York, but also recalled while in transit on American vessels and aircraft. A large amount of mail of US origin piled up in New York and was returned to sender in April and May 1943. The embargo lasted until November 1944. It therefore becomes a puzzle how this cover reached Lisbon on 16 July 1943: the only tentative answer I have come up with is that, during the sorting of mail to be returned to sender, it was discovered to be of Gold Coast origin, and therefore not the concern of the USA. By the time it reached Lisbon the war situation had altered materially - see the notes on the cover illustrated as Figure 6 below - and it was lucky to be uncensored by the Germans; it may have managed to catch the now once-weekly Ala Littoria Lisbon - Rome service and be sent on by rail to Verscio, which it reached 26 July; or it may have been sent by ship from Lisbon to Genoa, then on by rail to Chiasso (Ref. 3).

In contrast, a Gold Coast PO notice of June 1942 says 'A restricted weekly air mail service to the United Kingdom and certain European countries is now available. The restriction, due to war-time requirements, allows for only a small weight of mail being conveyed by air. On this account it becomes necessary to introduce a system of rationing whereunder the following members of the public may be permitted to post to a European destination once weekly one letter of not more than one half ounce in weight: a) private individuals who have relatives in Europe with whom they desire to communicate b) Head Offices of registered companies....The postage rates are as follows:

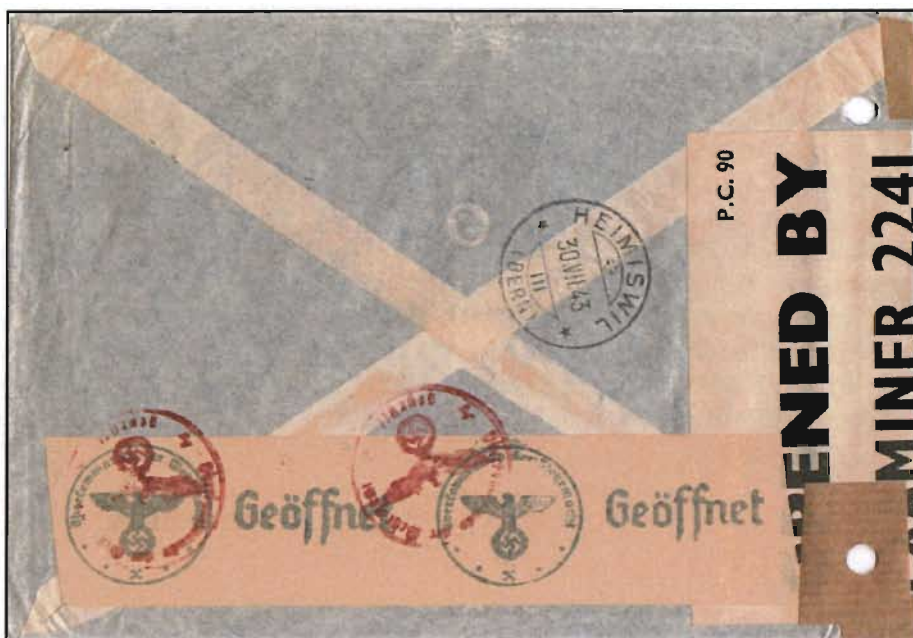
| Country of destination | Letters per ½ oz | Postcards per card |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| United Kingdom & Irish Free State | 1/3 | 7d |
| Gibraltar, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Vatican City State, Unoccupied France, and Prisoners of War in German and Italian hands | 1/6 | 9d |

The weekly restriction, but not the weight restriction, was lifted in September 1942 (Ref. 6).

'Europe' in the context of both notices clearly means, as is normal in traditional English usage, 'Continental Europe not including the British Isles'.



Figures 6 (above) and 7 (below, at 75%)



In June 1943, when the cover in Figures 6 and 7 was posted, the war situation had altered materially. The Allies were in possession of North Africa and, while this cover was in transit, were mounting the invasion of Sicily; the whole of France was occupied by the Germans and the surface route via Barcelona and France was no longer available (Ref. 2). Figure 6 shows a cover from Abetifi to Heimiswil, posted 23 June 1943, at the 1/6 rate. Uncensored in Gold

Coast, it was not off-loaded in Lisbon, but carried on for censoring in London. It must then have been flown back to Lisbon. The Lisbon-Rome service had been reduced to once weekly (Ref. 1), and either it was forwarded by the daily DLH Lisbon-Berlin service, which off-loaded it at Marseille, from where it was sent

to Paris; or it was forwarded by surface from Lisbon to Paris. In either case it was censored by the German authorities there. From Paris it was presumably forwarded by rail to Geneva, and reached Heimiswil 30 July 1943, only four days later than the cover in Figure 4. It is difficult to know a) why it was not carried on to Stuttgart or Berlin for censoring and then forwarded by the daily Stuttgart-Zurich air service, and b) if it was off-loaded at Marseille, why it was not sent to the German censor in Lyon.

Part of the answer, and the explanation for the difference in treatment at Lisbon between these two covers may lie in geography: Verscio is about 5 miles NW of Locarno on Lake Maggiore, near the border with Italy, and Heimiswil is about 10 miles NE of Bern, nearer the border with France.

Any answers, further comments and examples of similar covers will be gratefully received. I should be particularly glad to hear from anyone with a knowledge of censorship whether an absence of German censorship necessarily indicates that a cover did not pass through Germany.

References

- 1 Services Listed in the Swiss PTT Guides, published in John Daynes, *Wartime Air Mail*, 1996
- 2 Crux Michael, "World War II Swiss Air Mail to Southern Africa", *AMN*, Volume 49 No. 195, pp193-204
- 3 LaBlonde Charles J. *World War II Mail from Switzerland to Great Britain, Canada & the United States*, American Helvetia Philatelic Society, 2003
- 4 Ensor Michael, *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast*, WASC, 1998
- 5 Johnson Robert & Peet Gordon, *British Postal Rates 1937-2000*, 2000
- 6 Williams L.N. & M., "Gold Coast Airmails 1929-1942", *The Aero Field*, Volume 8 pp176-182
- 7 *Nigeria Gazette*, Government Notice 621, 11 May 1942
- 8 *Nigeria Gazette*, Government Notice 979, 31 July 1944

(I am grateful to Michael Wright for References 7 and 8)



Scarce Post Office Wrappers of Sierra Leone

Dr John K. Courtis

In September 2003 the author commenced a database of internet images of used post office newspaper wrappers listed for sale on eBay. This auction site is used as a proxy of what has been available on the international market. The author's computer library of about 18,500 different images has been collected on an almost daily basis over an 88 month period and has been organised by postal entities and Higgins & Gage ('E') catalogue numbers. This database enables country-specific studies to be undertaken, and is useful in considering the survival rates of used newspaper wrappers.

When I first realised that there were only a few examples of Sierra Leone post office wrappers in the database my initial reaction was to not bother to write an article. On second thoughts, with only three examples extant, it was felt that even this information was significant for general collectors of this postal entity and postal stationery collectors in particular. Three examples out of a total database of 18,500 that encompass about 125 postal entities is a remarkably low survival rate, representing about one per 6,000 worldwide wrappers listed.

Other used post office newspaper wrappers from Sierra Leone have almost certainly been offered for sale on other Internet sites and by dealers as well as by the more traditional philatelic auction houses. Collectors with access to catalogues that illustrate wrappers from non-eBay sources as well as from their own holdings are invited to supplement these findings.

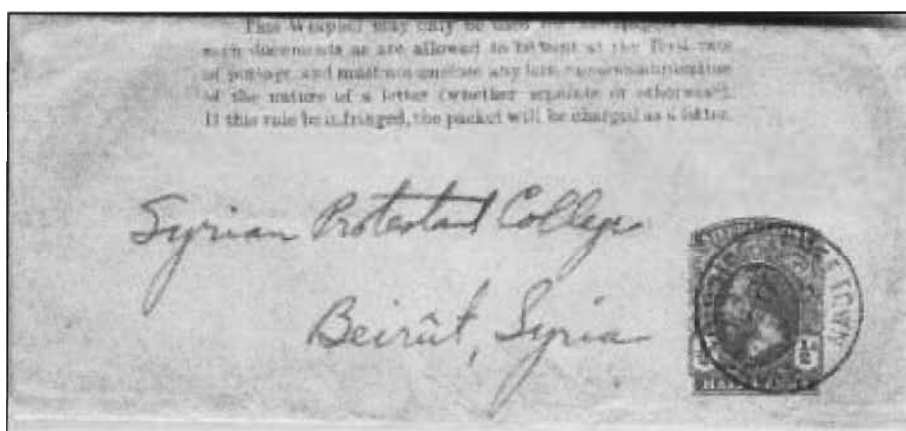


Figure 1

2 examples of the KGV newspaper E3, used to USA and Syria respectively

Sierra Leone issued four types of post office wrappers: E1 issued 1898 Queen Victoria ½d green on buff (25,520 issued – see Beale Ref. 1), E2 issued 1902 King Edward VII ½d green on buff (34,733 issued), E3 1912 King George V ½d green on yellowish buff (163,096 issued) and E4 1937 King George VI facing right ½d green on buff (11,323 issued). Taken overall, the total number of wrappers issued to the public (less specimen copies) was 234,672.

The data base shows only three examples. Based on these figures this represents a survival rate of about one per 80,000 issued. This rate is intuitively too low and raises the question where are the other extant wrappers. However, even allowing for other copies being in collectors' and dealers' hands the survival rate was low, possible one per 10,000 issued. The three examples are shown as Figures 1 and 2. These images have been taken from the internet and some deterioration in quality is to be expected.

There are two examples of E3 (Figure 1), both sent to overseas addresses: Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA and Syrian Protestant College, Beirut, Syria. The one example of E4 (Fig. 2) was mailed to a Box Number in Freetown. None are remarkable; none are uprated nor show any auxiliary markings. All postmarks are Freetown. A second database of eBay wrapper sales transactions has also been collected. The E3 address to USA sold for US\$ 4.99 (two bidders), the E3 to Syria sold for US\$ 9.99 (one bidder). These realised prices belie the scarcity of Sierra Leone wrappers. The E4 was listed for sale at US\$ 99.99 but actual sale details occurred before the database was started.

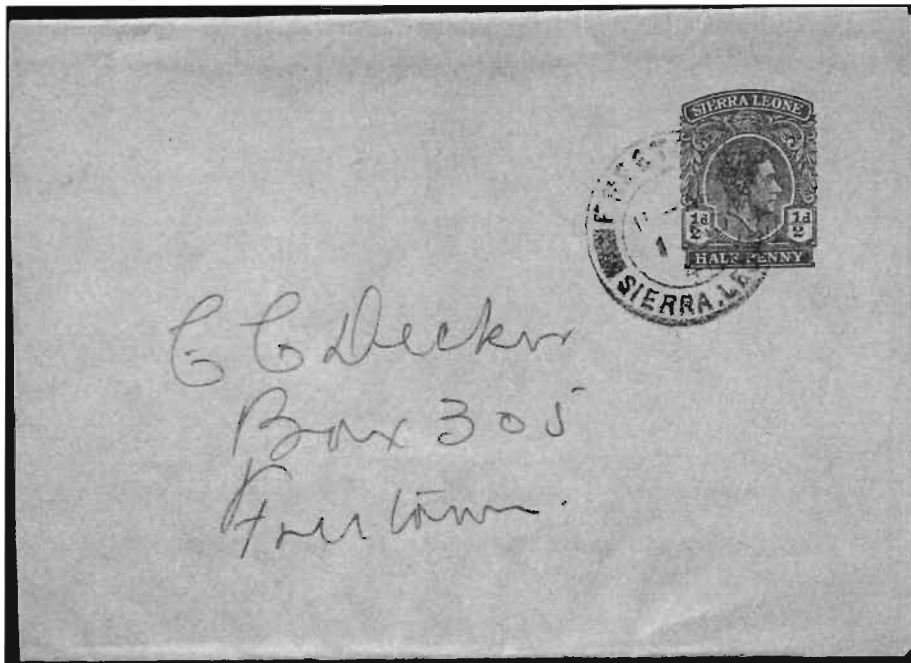


Figure 2

A KGVII newswrapper E4, used to a local Freetown address

Each of these four post office types issued SPECIMEN overprints and these are shown in Figure 3. A judge in Hong Kong made the comment that for some of the British Commonwealth colonies it is easier to find Specimen copies on the market than postally used and that seems to be the case here. Three sales of E1, overprinted Specimen have been recorded: US\$ 5.58 (three bidders), 9.00 (five bidders) and 4.99 (one bidder). The four post office issued wrappers exist overprinted Specimen for UPU purposes: E1, E2 and E3 offset SPECIMEN in serif type, and E4 in sans serif, letterpress.

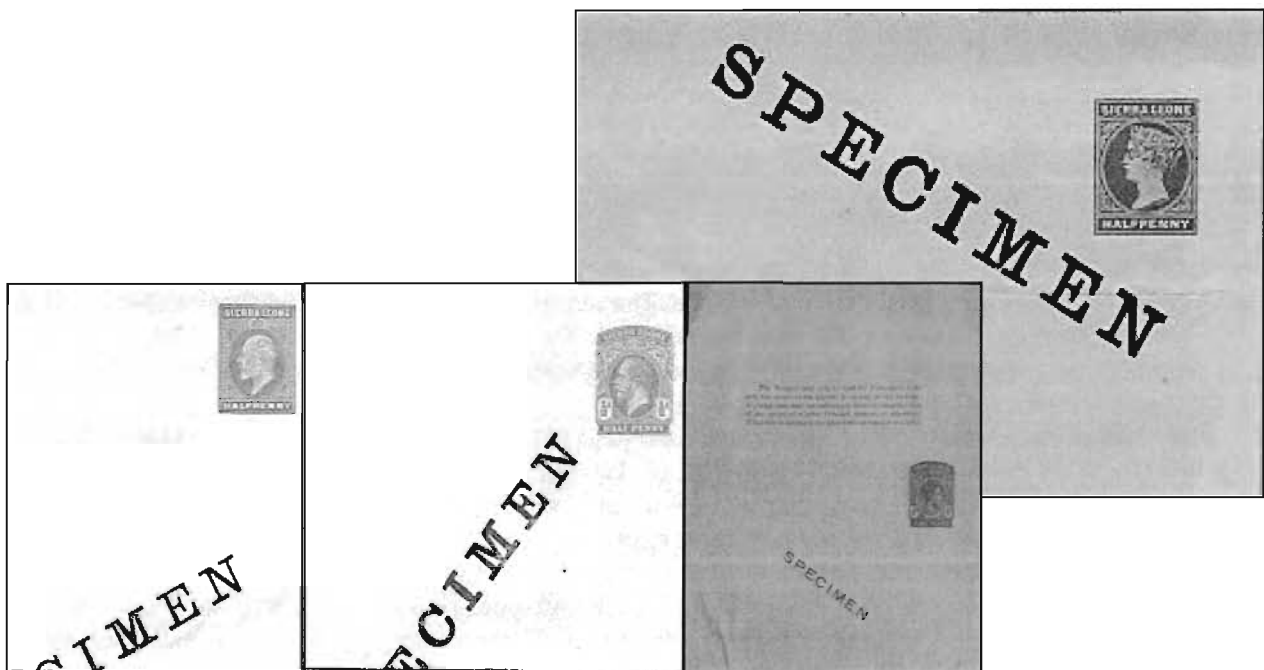


Figure 3

Specimen overprints:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| E1 (top right) QV, 750 Specimens | E2 (above left) KEVII, 727 Specimens |
| E3 (above centre) KGV, 404 Specimens | E4 (above right) KGVII, 397 Specimens |

Although postal stationery is less popular than traditional philately, and wrappers are probably ranked at the bottom by postal stationery collectors, nevertheless the discovery of these very scarce Sierra Leone used post office wrappers can be most satisfying. Collectors with more information are invited to supplement these findings.

Reference

- 1 Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone: Its History, Stamps and Stationery until 1961*, pp217-227, RPSL, London 1988



Preparing Manuscripts for Publication: Some lessons learned the hard way!

Philip Quirk

During the course of my recent work on the Sierra Leone first 6d stamp and on John Rose's manuscript on the perforated Cameo stamps of The Gambia, I have had to learn how to perform several tasks. These include creating pdf files from Word documents, extracting images and text from pdf files for subsequent word-processing, and extracting embedded images from Word files, while retaining their resolution. While searching for solutions from the internet, I encountered a lot of misleading or incorrect information. I thought it might be worthwhile to document my experiences, so that other would-be authors or editorial assistants might avoid some of my difficulties!

The pdf file format is extremely useful for transmitting text and images for subsequent publication. The best known program for creating and editing pdf files is Adobe's "Acrobat"; the company also distributes "Acrobat Reader" for viewing files. However, while "Acrobat Reader" is free, "Acrobat" costs hundreds of pounds, and I wished, if possible, to avoid this expenditure.

Creating pdf Files from Word Documents

Recent versions of Word (2007 onwards) allow direct output of a document as a pdf file; below is the work-round for older versions, mine being part of Office 2003.

- 1 Install the HP Laserjet 8150 PS on the computer as a printer. You do not need to have the actual printer, and this only needs to be done once. The required driver for this printer was already available on my computer (Windows XP operating system). The important thing is that the printer needs to be capable of producing "postscript" files; this particular model was recommended by one online source.
- 2 Download and install "GPL Ghostscript 8.64" and "GSview 4.9". Links to download both files can be found on the website <http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/gsview/> Again, this only needs to be done once. Ghostscript converts postscript files to pdf format, while GSview (or Ghostgum) provides a user-friendly, graphical interface for Ghostscript.
- 3 Create your document using Word.
- 4 To produce a postscript file, choose "Print", as though you were going to print the document in the normal way, but then select the HP Laserjet 8150 PS printer and check the "Print to file" box. Instead of a paper copy, this produces what is called a .prn file, saved in your computer. Note that these files can be enormous (100 Mb plus)!
- 5 Launch GSview, click OK on the screen that asks if you wish to register the program, then open the .prn file created in step 4. Click the File menu, select Convert, then for the Device select "pdfwrite" and for the Resolution select "720". When asked to name your output file, make sure you include the ".pdf" suffix at the end. This produces a pdf file.

The one problem I have had with this process is that files containing high resolution images can come out very large. The Resolution setting in GSview seems to have no effect on the size of the output file!

The default printer settings for the HP Laserjet 8150 PS give 600 dpi output, but even lowering this to 300 dpi did not appreciably reduce the file size. I suspect I could eventually find a substitute printer driver for low resolution output, but an alternative is simply to zip the pdf file before distribution.

Extracting Images and Text from pdf Files and Word Documents

In order to correct typographical errors and adjust the formatting in the Rose manuscript, I needed to extract the text from the pdf file I had been sent. This can be done simply by highlighting the text, then copying it to the clipboard and pasting into Word. It may be worth noting that in Windows, copying can be accomplished quickly using the key combination Ctrl C, pasting using Ctrl V, and cutting using Ctrl X. A whole document can be quickly selected using Ctrl A.

However, when transferring text from a pdf file, some formatting features may be lost. With the Rose manuscript, for example, ½ was converted to 1/2, text was converted into 11.5 point instead of 12, and the tables were totally mangled and had to be reconstructed manually. Furthermore, embedded images cannot be copied in this way.

To extract images from the pdf files, I downloaded and installed “OpenOffice 3.2” (freeware). This displayed each page of a pdf file as a separate, PowerPoint-like slide, from which an image could be copied to the clipboard and then pasted into a Word document. This enabled me to prepare a corrected draft of the Rose manuscript.

The next problem that came to light was that the images were not of sufficiently high quality for publication, the reason being that their resolution was too low in the source pdf files. Through the kindness of John’s family, I quickly obtained his original Word documents, containing the required, high resolution images. As all my textual and formatting amendments were now in a new Word document, I needed to copy these images across to the revised manuscript. However, a further snag quickly became apparent; simply using the clipboard to accomplish this resulted in a serious loss of image resolution.

Once an image is placed (“embedded”) in a Word document, there is no obvious way to extract it as a file. An image copied to the clipboard can be pasted into a photographic processing program and saved as a file, but again resolution is lost. The surprising but simple answer is, instead of saving the Word document as the usual .doc file, to save it as a web page (.htm file). When prompted by Word as to what version of Internet Explorer would be used to view the page, I found that selecting “IE6 or later” was satisfactory.

The procedure creates a file called, for example, Chapter 10.htm, together with a folder called Chapter 10_files. Inside this folder is a separate file for each image, named image001.jpg, image002.jpg, and so on. These image files could then be inserted into the revised manuscript's Word file without loss of resolution, and the problem was solved!

Merging pdf Files

The Rose manuscript has 14 chapters, each of which originated as a separate Word document. During editing, each chapter was eventually turned into a pdf file; however, indexing each file individually would not have been easy, nor would submitting all the separate files to the printer.

Fortunately for my sanity, the basic version of a program called “pdfsam” (Windows version V2_2_1) was free to download from the website <http://www.pdfsam.org> (I have since made a thank-you payment to the author). Amongst other features which I have not yet investigated, it allows the easy merging of multiple pdf files into a single file. Working within the intuitive user interface, you simply select one-by-one the files you wish to merge, set the destination folder, name and version of the output file (Acrobat 6 worked fine for me), then click the Run button.



SH2 Specimen Handstamps on Tristan da Cunha Discovered at Jamestown Post Office

Barry Burns FRPSL

I wrote at some length on the Specimen handstamps of the South Atlantic Islands in two articles in *Cameo* several years ago (Refs. 1 & 2). When Bernard Mabbett and I visited St Helena early in 2009 we were told of the cellar at the Jamestown Post Office where we found a veritable treasure of material of philatelic significance (Ref. 3).



Figure 1 1987 Rockhopper Penguins

One of the first boxes we opened contained quite a number of Tristan da Cunha stamps and First Day Covers. It was only after looking at several of them that we realised they all bore the SH2 Specimen handstamp! As such, they were of some philatelic and commercial value so we informed the Postmistress Beverley Francis of this, and she put them into safe storage. Before doing this, however, we took the opportunity of photographing all the examples in this box. We did not have time to even look at most of the archive, and it is quite possible that other examples, possibly also of St Helena and Ascension, are waiting to be discovered.

Only recently have I got around to studying these photographs, and I present my findings here. All the examples listed in Table 1 were of the SH2 Type applied in black. Some of the examples were somewhat smudged, and in other cases rather lightly applied. Many were on cards of some sort, and were undoubtedly displayed in the Jamestown Post Office at time of issue to attract sales. One of the cards was endorsed with handwriting giving details and price of the set, and had pin holes where it had been mounted.

Of particular interest was the quantity of First Day Covers. Although a number of sets of stamps have been recorded from time to time, I have found very little reference to covers - except as mentioned in my second article (Ref. 2, p279). In all the examples we found in the cellar, just a single handstamp had been applied to the cover itself; the stamps were not handstamped, although they all bore the first day of issue cancellation.

Note that the illustrations were taken close-up on a small compact digital camera on macro setting. They therefore show some distortion of the image, although this should not detract from their importance of being a record of these very scarce items.

| Year of Issue | Value(s) | Issue | SG | Format | Notes |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1977 | 1p - £2 (12) | Definitives | 220-231 | Stamps | Display Card, Fig. 3 |
| 1983 | 1p, 4p-15p, £2 | Definitives | 349, 351-354, 360 | FDC | Part Set, Figure 6 |
| 1984 | 10p - 50p | Night Sky | 373-376 | Stamps | |
| 1984 | 10p - 50p | Night Sky | 373-376 | FDC | |
| 1984 | 9p - 45p | Woolens Industry | 377-380 | FDC | |
| 1984 | 9p - 45p | Woolens Industry | MS381 | Stamps MS | |
| 1984 | 9p - 45p | Woolens Industry | MS381 | FDC | Figure 4 |
| 1984 | 10p, 20p | Christmas | 382, 383 | Stamps | No 30p, 50p values |
| 1984 | 10p - 50p | Christmas | 382-385 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 10p-35p | Shipwrecks (1st) | 386-388 | Stamps | |
| 1985 | 10p-35p | Shipwrecks (1st) | 386-388 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 60p | Shipwrecks (1st) | MS389 | Stamps MS | |
| 1985 | 60p | Shipwrecks (1st) | MS389 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 10p - 50p | Queen Mother | 390-393 | Stamps | Figure 2 |
| 1985 | 10p - 50p | Queen Mother | 390-393 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 80p | Queen Mother | MS394 | Stamps MS | |
| 1985 | 80p | Queen Mother | MS394 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 10p, 25p, 60p | Flags | 395, 397, 398 | Stamps | No 15p value |
| 1985 | 10p - 60p | Flags | 395-398 | FDC | |
| 1985 | 10p-50p | Lost Lifeboat | 399-401 | Stamps | |
| 1985 | 10p-50p | Lost Lifeboat | 399-401 | FDC | |
| 1986 | 10p - 50p | Halley's Comet | 402-405 | Stamps | |
| 1986 | 10p - 50p | Halley's Comet | 402-405 | FDC | |
| 1986 | 10p - 65p | 60th Birthday QEII | 406-410 | FDC | Figure 7 |
| 1986 | 9p - 40p | Shipwrecks (2nd) | 411-413 | Stamps | |
| 1986 | 10p - 40p | Royal Wedding | 415-416 | FDC | |
| 1986 | 5p - 50p | Inaccessible Island | 417-421 | Stamps | |
| 1987 | 11p-45p | Shipwrecks (3rd) | 426-428 | FDC | |
| 1987 | 70p | Shipwrecks (3rd) | MS429 | FDC | Figure 5 |
| 1987 | 10p - 50p | Rockhoppers | 430-433 | Stamps | Figure 1 |

Table 1 Tristan da Cunha Stamps Handstamped SPECIMEN at Jamestown P.O.



Figure 2 1985 Life and Times of The Queen Mother



Figure 3 1977 Definitive set



Figure 4 (above) 1984 Woollens Miniature Sheet

Figure 5 (below) 1987 Shipwrecks third series Miniature Sheet

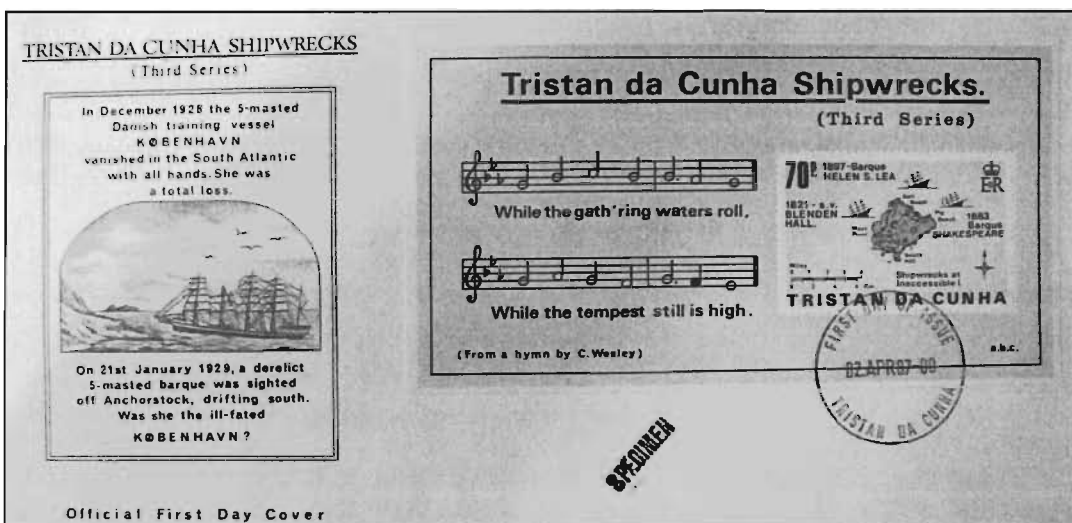


Figure 6 1983 Definitives part set

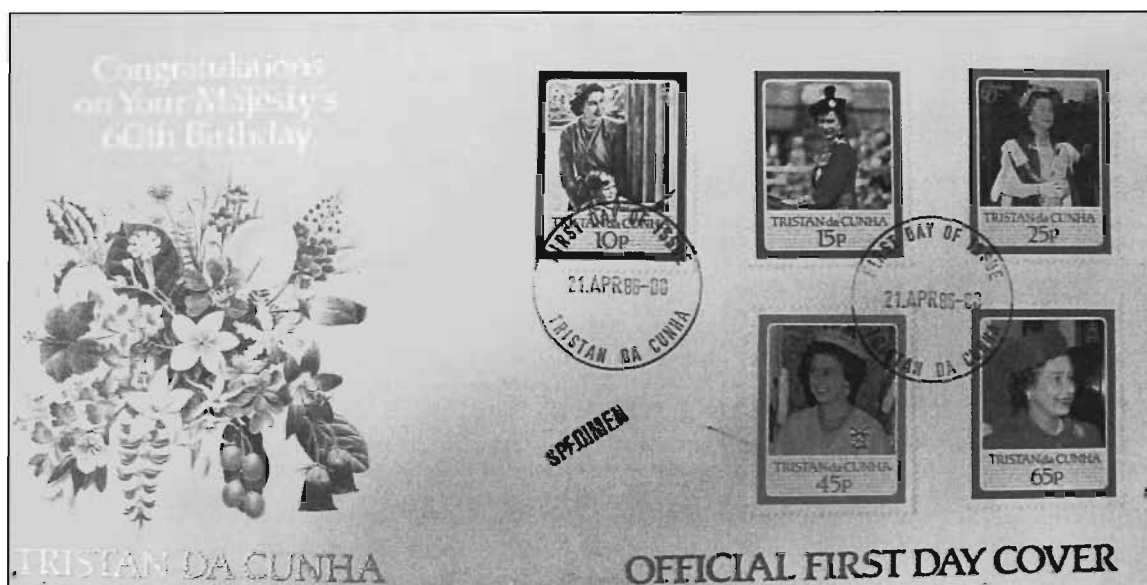


Figure 7 1986 60th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II

References

- 1 Burns B. "The Specimen Handstamps of St Helena & Ascension", *Cameo*, Volume 9 pp72-81, WASC, October 2005
- 2 Burns B. "Specimen Handstamps of S. Atlantic Islands", *Cameo*, Volume 9 pp278-279, WASC, October 2006
- 3 Burns B. "2009 South Atlantic Visit Part 2 - St Helena", *Cameo*, Volume 11 pp208-213, WASC, October 2009



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