

CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



Air mail postcard rated 7Fr from Leopoldville on
30 January 1945 to Brussels, arriving 5 March 1945, and redirected locally
via London, where the octagonal censor handstamp PASSED/ T.175 was applied

From our next Auction

Register your interest today.

Live Bidding available Online



SG 10a



SG 45a



SG 18, a



SG 18c



SG 40b



SG 7b



SG 13a



SG 18, a



SG 18c



SG 213a

www.murraypayne.com



Email: info@murraypayne.com Tel: +44 (0)1934 732511 Fax: +44 (0)1934 733498

Murray Payne Ltd, P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2EW, England



POSTAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD TO 1960

INCLUDING
PRE-STAMP, COVERS, POSTMARKS, MILITARY & CIVILIAN MAIL,
CENSORED P.O.W. MAIL, COMMERCIAL MAIL AND POSTAL
STATIONERY

I PARTICIPATE AT A NUMBER OF SHOWS THROUGHOUT THE UK

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

Malcolm Lacey

PO BOX 9, WINCHESTER, HANTS, SO22 5RF, UK

Tel. 0208 570 4856

Please mention Cameo when you contact our advertisers

West Africa Study Circle**President : Barbara Priddy****Joint CAMEO Editors**

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

Robert May
Longdown Farm Cottage, Cadsden
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
HP27 0NB, UK
(01844 344336
robert.may@cantab.net

Hon. Secretary

Philip Quirk
157 Balden Rd., Harborne
BIRMINGHAM B32 2EL, UK
(0121 428 4656
philip.quirk@btopenworld.com

Hon. Treasurer

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

Hon. Membership Secretary

Peter Duggan, 75 Alexandra Rd,
READING RG1 5PS
(0118 966 3220
togostamps@gmail.com

Hon. Auctioneer

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

Hon. Advertising Manager

Peter Rolfe, 14 Aughton Road,
Birkdale, SOUTHPORT, PR8 2AF
(01704 563575
peter.rolfe@btinternet.com

Hon. Librarian

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

North American Representative

Dr. Martin Bratzel, 1233 Virginia Ave,
Windsor, Ontario, N8S 2Z1, Canada
marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca
(0015) 199 481968

Webmaster

Ray Harris
harris6@which.net

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

Editorial	122
Letters to the Editor:	123
Priddy, Fricks, Heap, Martin (2), Anderson, Redhead	
Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals	125
Sources	126
<i>The George V Badge Issues of St Helena and Ascension, A Study of the Printings and Plate Varieties</i> by Ralph Stanton & Bill Thorpe	
Obituary - Kevin Doyle	127
Early Postmark from Gloucester, Sierra Leone	John Hossack 127
Nigeria - New Censor Label 'Returned to Sender'	Martin Zanone 128
Airports at Lagos	Rob May 128
Togo Parcel Post	John Mayne 131
Sierra Leone KEVII 5s Forgery	Jeremy Martin 132
Another Sierra Leone Wax Seal	Keith Hanman 133
Kejetia Cancel, Gold Coast	Ian Anderson 134
Sierra Leone First 6d 'Dot after PENCE' Variety	Frank Walton 134
<i>Empress of Australia</i> Tristan Cover of 1935	Keith Hanman 136
Letter from St Helena 1815 - Rate Explained?	Bernard Mabbett 137
Photos Taken after the Togo Campaign of 1914	John Mayne 138
Internal Postal Rates of St Helena	Bernard Mabbett 141
Use of Aerogrammes in Cameroun	Rob May 144
Exhibition of Stamps of some African Colonies	W. Dorning Beckton 151
Nigeria - the 1975-82 25k Definitive, SPECIMEN	Jeremy Martin 154
St Helena Type 1 c.d.s. with '2' for FEBRUARY	Bernard Mabbett 155
By SABENA from West Africa to UK, 1944-45	Rob May 156
Theft from the Forcados Post Office, 1914	Simon Heap 161
Robert F. Peel, Governor of St Helena 1920-1924	Bernard Mabbett 163
Tristan da Cunha Type II Postmark, 1990 Format	Richard Moss 165
Cameroun - Late Use of Sterling Revalued Stamps	Marty Bratzel 166
Small '46' in c.d.s. on St Helena Military Cover	Bernard Mabbett 167
Kamerun - 'Gruss Aus Victoria' Postcards	Bob Maddocks 168
My Favourite - a 1902 St Helena Cover	Dominic Savastano 170
Last Post from Fort Stuart, Old Calabar, 23.11.95	Bob Maddocks 171
Who Was Who in Nigeria/Camerouns in WWII	Bob Maddocks 175
Theft from the Sapele Post Office, May 1914	Simon Heap 178

Front Cover

Postcard from Leopoldville to Brussels via London

See page 156

Editorial

I start this Editorial with a plea that you all carefully read the enclosed flyer detailing the reasons and proposal for a subscription increase. A steep increase in postage charges, particularly for overseas air mail, has made this increase inevitable, You are asked to vote for your preferred choice, which will be counted at the WASC AGM in London on 10 November 2012. Note carefully the deadline for your vote being with our Secretary, Philip Quirk, by 6 pm on 8 November. You can vote by email or post.

My second request is for you to note and add Rob May's new email address (page 121) to your contacts list. There is the possibility that I, too may be changing my email address before the January *Cameo* so if you fail to make contact with my current Virgin one listed on page 121, then please use my Hotmail account which is: barry.burns1@hotmail.co.uk

As you look through this issue you will no doubt notice that there is a heavy leaning towards Cameroun and St Helena. This is not intentional, but reflects the fact that collectors from these countries are more prolific with their submissions. Although Rob and I do get a satisfactory number of articles each year, we could really do with more from Ascension, Gambia and Gold Coast in particular. Over to you!



Barry Burns

The next issue will be edited by Rob May, datelined January 2012, and the copy deadline is 3 January 2012

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

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, without the written permission of the copyright holder, application for which should be addressed to the Editor. Such written permission must be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.

Printed in England on archival quality paper to ISO 9706 by Quoin Publishing, 17 North Street, Middlesbrough TS2 1JP www.quinpublishing.co.uk

Annual Subscription : £16 for UK members and £20 for overseas members. There is no entry fee. The subscription term is for calendar years.

Advertising Rates :	Black & White	Full page	£45	Half page	£27.50
	Colour	Full page	£90	Half page	£50

Access to the internet? Then please try visiting the
West Africa Study Circle Web Site at :
<http://www.wasc.org.uk>

Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact harris6@which.net



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

Cameroun '1942' air issue

Dear Rob,

Thank you for raising the question of the date of issue of the '1942' air issue, which prompted me to take a look through my Cameroun wartime airmail covers. I attach a table of the results (*Ed.— unfortunately too large to fit the Cameo page format*). I am sure you are correct in saying that the airliner set was issued well after the Cross of Lorraine set, which first appears on my covers in March 1942. My first cover using these airmail stamps is dated 1 December 1943 from Douala to Grand Bassam (5fr + 2x1fr). The questions which spring to mind are how widely available were these air stamps, and for how long? If they were as freely available as the 1942 Cross of Lorraine issue, there does not seem to be any reason why they were not equally often used to make up airmail rates. But the vast majority of the stamps on my covers are other issues, from the 1925 definitives (of which there seem to have been inexhaustible supplies of the 5fr, in use up to 1944) to the 1942 Cross of Lorraine.

I also noticed that the so-called 1941 air set did not appear at all on wartime covers. Gibbons mysteriously and confusingly says "Prepared by Vichy Govt. but issued by Free French", a statement not repeated by either Yvert or Michel. The imprint is certainly Helio Vaugiraud. How can this have been possible in 1941? (The Vichy issue of this set, without RF, unavailable in Cameroun, is given as 1943-44.) The only covers on which I have them used are dated 17 November 1945 and 5 April 1946. Was this set too only available in Cameroun long after the alleged date of issue?

Barbara Priddy
Wimbledon

Rob May responds:

The 1941 and 1943 Vichy air mail sets could not be sent to Cameroun at the time they

were produced in France, due to the adherence of Cameroun to the Free French cause. The dates of issue used in the catalogues are for the release of mint stamps in Paris to the trade. As with the Harrison Free French set, I don't think a first date of issue of the 1941 set in the colony has been put on record yet. Information would be welcome. The 1943 set (without 'RF' printed in the corner of each stamp) was never sent to Cameroun during or after the war.

In case no documentary evidence is extant, and if other members are willing to add their own records, I offer to use Barbara's table as a starting point to build a larger body of empirical evidence of the dates of use of both sets.

FAM 22 Again

Dear Barry,

Re. FAM-22, *Cameo* 85 pp14-28, and my follow-up letter *Cameo* 86 p64, I checked with the archivist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory on the subject and found my copy of the Army's official records of the Manhattan project. My speculation about air transport of the Congo ore to the United States is untenable for a number of reasons.

With respect to ORNL, after 9/11 all the archived documents regarding ore processing were reclassified and removed from public availability. Nevertheless, the Army's official records indicate that the agreement with the Belgian government in London was not achieved until the end of 1944. The mines in the Congo were not reopened until January 1945. So the time lines do not intersect with the period of Sikorsky R-46 operations. Moreover, the agreement stipulated ship transport of the ore. The ore received an initial processing in the Congo to remove radium and precious metals, which the Belgians retained. The ore product was processed mainly in New Jersey with Westinghouse the major contractor.

U.S. Metals, in New York, also processed some ore to extract uranium to alloy in vanadium steel.

Whatever was transported by the big flying boat was not ore.

Best,

Gene Fricks FRPSL



Nigeria's First Stamps....

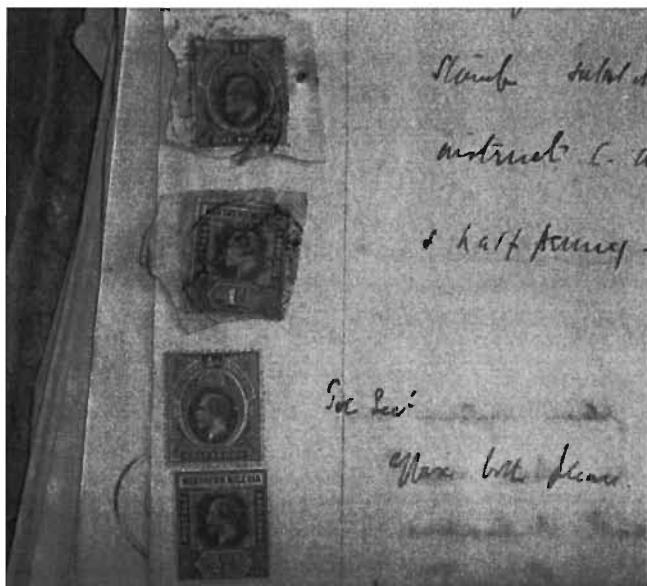
Dear Barry,

On getting back my main laptop recently, I suddenly realised I had a small but significant extra piece of evidence to add to my article in the last *Cameo*, 86, pp93-96 on Nigeria's First Stamps and Postal Stationery, 1914'.

It is a photograph (illustrated below) showing where the colonial officials had affixed half-penny and penny stamps of Northern and Southern Nigeria in their file to compare the merits of each colony's designs for the forthcoming Amalgamated Nigeria issue. The mint half-pennies are gummed down on the page, while the pennies are used copies on piece and pinned unceremoniously to the page,

Kind regards,

Dr Simon Heap
Oxford



Army Correspondence Card for WWII

Dear Barry and Rob,

In the June 2012 *Cameo*, pp114-115, John Mayne wrote about an Army Correspondence Card from the Gold Coast at the start of WWI.

I have a similar card datestamped at Victoriaborg on the same day, 12 August 1914. My card is addressed to a Mrs.(?) Yelf in

London. My card also has the same Type 1E censor cachet with the same date.

Initially postage rates applied at 1d for a 1 oz letter or ½d for a postcard. These items seem to have been treated as letters. From 28 August 1914 'free' postage applied (Ref. 1).

I did write about this card in the July 1993 *Cameo*, Number 38, p221 under the heading Gold Coast "Quite Well" Postcard.

Reference

- 1 Proud E.B., *History of British Army Postal Service Vol. II 1903-1927* pp9-10, Proud Bailey Co. Ltd., nd

Jeremy Martin FRPSL
Salisbury



Sierra Leone EVII 5s Forgery

Dear Barry and Rob,

I refer to Frank Walton's article in the June 2012 issue of *Cameo*, p110, regarding the Sierra Leone Edward VII 5s Forgery.

I also have one example, (*illustrated in colour on page 132 - Ed.*), also perf. 14 and watermark Multiple Crown CA. 'FAUX' has been handstamped on the reverse. The cancellation is unclear.

Jeremy Martin FRPSL
Salisbury



Akposo, Gold Coast

Dear Barry/Rob,

In the June issue of *Cameo*, page 65, you illustrated a recently discovered Gold Coast postmark identified by Peter Duggan. I have searched my sources and notes for a town/village named Akposo without success. There is a people in Togo with this name which is also the language they speak.

In my opinion, this is a damaged AKROSO postmark from the town on the Winneba-Akim to Oda road some 85 km distant from Kumasi. A type 16 is listed for this town at this date in 1952.

Ian Anderson
Edinburgh



Online Lists of Nigeria Cancellers

Dear Rob, Barry,

Over the past couple of years I've been attempting to collate the available information on Nigerian cancellers and their earliest and latest known use dates. The key three sources are the books by Ince and Sacher, Proud, and

Jones. Each uses its own system for describing canceller type and it is not always easy to cross-reference them. They do not always agree on usage dates either.

The result of this work is a set of lists, alphabetically arranged by post office, which lists each of its known cancellers, giving the type number from each book which mentions it. Alongside I have given usage dates drawn from the published dates. I have added information on new offices, types and usage dates from my own collection.

I have put these lists online at:

<http://www.nigerian-post-offices.org.uk/>

together with more information on sources, and on how I have approached the task of collation. The lists are free to use, on three conditions. The first is that readers contact me about the numerous mistakes I am bound to have made, the second is that they consider taking the time to send me new information on offices, types and dates derived from their own collections, and the third is that they respect copyright by asking for my permission if they wish to re-publish the lists in whole or part.

Best wishes

Paul Redhead

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

- Airmails – Barbara Priddy
- Ascension – Bernard Hughes
- Biafra – Dudley Prestedge
- Cameroons – Marty Bratzel
- Gambia – Oliver Andrew
- Ghana – Ian Anderson
- Gold Coast – Peter Duggan
- Lagos – John Sacher
- Maritime – John Knight
- Nigerias to 1914 – John Sacher
- Nigeria post 1914 – Tony Plumbe
- St. Helena – Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone to 1961 – Frank Walton
- Sierra Leone post 1961 – Peter Rolfe
- Togo – Jeremy Martin

**The Publications Committee Chairman
is Rob May**

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 usually listed here.

Air Mail News, Volume 55, no. 218, August 2012

pp25-27 John Symons, *Primary Source; Imperial Airways' contract for an Air Service between Khartoum and Lagos, February 1937*

La Catastrophe, June 2012

R Gwynn, *No airmail service available; a West Africa Dilemma from the Second World War*

Journal of the France & Colonies PS, Volume 62, no. 2, June 2012

pp57-58 Peter Kelly, *Early Transsaharan Mails*
p67, Barbara Priddy, *Poste Navale Bureaux in West Africa*

Sixth Sense, Philatelic News from Murray Payne Ltd, Issue 98, July 2012

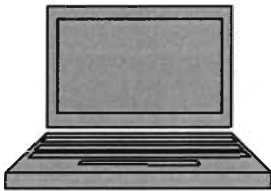
p5, *Philatelic Research now much easier - referring to the launch of the Global Philatelic Research website www.globalphilatelibrary.org*

Journal of the Royal West African Frontier Force, Volume 1, no 3, August 2012

Articles of special note are:

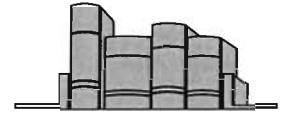
pp90-99, Keith Steward and Stephen English, *Charles Havelock Payne, Lieutenant in the Malay States Guides and an Assistant Inspector in the Gold Coast Constabulary (re Ashanti campaign 1900)*, and

pp100-111, Major Harry Feccitt MBE, TDA, *Victoria Cross for the WAFF in the Cameroons campaign; won on 17 November 1914*




Sources

**Views expressed by reviewers are their own
and are not necessarily endorsed by WASC
or the editors of *Cameo***



For all WASC book orders and payments please contact the Treasurer (address on contents page). Authors will distribute their own new publications to members, whilst distribution of purchases from older stock is arranged via the Treasurer.

 *The George V Badge Issues of St Helena and Ascension, A Study of the Printings and Plate Varieties* by Ralph Stanton & Bill Thorpe, published by West Africa Study Circle, ISBN 9781905647101, viii+140p, 30cm, perfect bound. Available from 57 Manse Road, Edinburgh EH12 7SR. Price £35 (WASC members £28) plus p&p UK £4.40, World surface £8.00, Europe air £8.00, World air £14.50. UK cheque (or PayPal plus £1 fee) to wasctreasurer@aol.com.

Reviewed by Robin Murchie

Our postman delivered a copy of this book the day before my wife and I left for a holiday on the Isles of Scilly. There was just time for a cursory glance before finding room for it in the suitcase but I was immediately impressed by the clear fresh appearance and quality of print. A wet day today and time to have a good look at the book and I soon realise that my first impression was not mistaken.

The two authors started corresponding when Bill Thorpe joined the WASC in 2003 and 18 months later the concept of the book was born when they decided to put 'something on paper'. Following the sudden and untimely death of Ralph Stanton in 2010 Bill continued the work on the study to completion.

The introduction gives a clear indication of the contents of the book and there is a brief history of both Ascension and St Helena. On the first page Thomas Bruce the designer of the stamps and Postmaster of St Helena is depicted along with the Jamestown Post Office c. 1918.

The contents include sections on Design & Proofs, Specimens, Printings and Their Identification, Paper, Watermarks and Numbers Printed, and a very interesting section on the Jubilee Lines and Plate Plugs. I had not realised before the role that these lines and plugs can play in the plating and identification of the different printings.

The major study dealing with the numerous varieties is split into five sub sections – Major Flaws, Minor Flaws, Secondary Flaws, Minor Flaws for Individual Values and Transient Flaws. This may seem a little confusing at first but on further reading all becomes apparent and the reader begins to realise the amount of work that has been put into producing this book. Virtually all the flaws are illustrated; the majority in colour.

From the information given approximately 75% of the stamps can be positioned although obviously a good magnifying glass will be required to find some of the very minor flaws. This is similar to the stamps of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Map issue where a high proportion can be positioned and plated. A further well illustrated chapter is on postmarks including Madam Joseph and other forged cancellations.

The text provides an essential and informative back up to the illustrations and gives an excellent insight into all aspects of the issue. There are useful Appendices at the end covering subjects such as postal rates, a table of major and minor flaws and printing details (Burns). The illustration on the 'Parts of the Design' page is useful in identifying different details of the design such as Mizzenmast, Mainmast, and Foremast etc.

In conclusion an extremely well written, researched and illustrated book that is a credit to the authors. It will be of great interest and a 'must have on the bookshelf' for collectors who specialise in the printings and varieties of these stamps.

Obituary: John Kevin Doyle PhD, PMP, FRPSL

Kevin was born in New York City in 1948 and died in Lisle, Illinois on 21 June 2012 aged 64. He was married to Jane for 42 years and they had two children, Neal and Meghan.

He was a very active philatelist, and a member of the Collectors Club of Chicago and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, amongst others. Kevin, with his varied interests, provided a link amongst a number of philatelic societies including ours.

He will probably be best known for his work with The German Colonies Collectors Group, and he was the very well respected Editor of their journal *Vorläufer* until the time of his death. Indeed, he had edited the June edition and saw its publication shortly before he died.

We extend our condolences to Jane and his family.

From information provided by Marty Bratzel

Early Postmark from Gloucester, Sierra Leone

John Hossack

In October 1899 five post offices in Sierra Leone were issued with a large segmented circular datestamp of 33 or 34 mm diameter. The offices were at Bullom, Gloucester, Kambia, Mange and Mo Palma (Ref. 1). They appear to have nothing in common with each other except for this type of canceller and the date it was sent.

Though none are common, examples of such postmarks from Kambia and Mo Palma are seen from time to time and that from Mange infrequently. Those from Bullom and Gloucester have not been recorded previously.

I have acquired a partial strike from Gloucester on a Sierra Leone 1d stamp, SG 42, showing only the last three letters, 'TER'. The only clue to the date is a '3' at the right of the centre panel. The postmark must have been applied in 1903.



Gloucester is a village some three miles south of Freetown and the post office there was opened in 1892. However, no postmarks have been noted before 1910 (Ref. 2). This recent find could, for now at least, be the earliest recorded date for this office.

References

- 1 Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone*, p38, RPSL, London 1988
- 2 Walton F.L., *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone*, WASC, Dronfield 1990

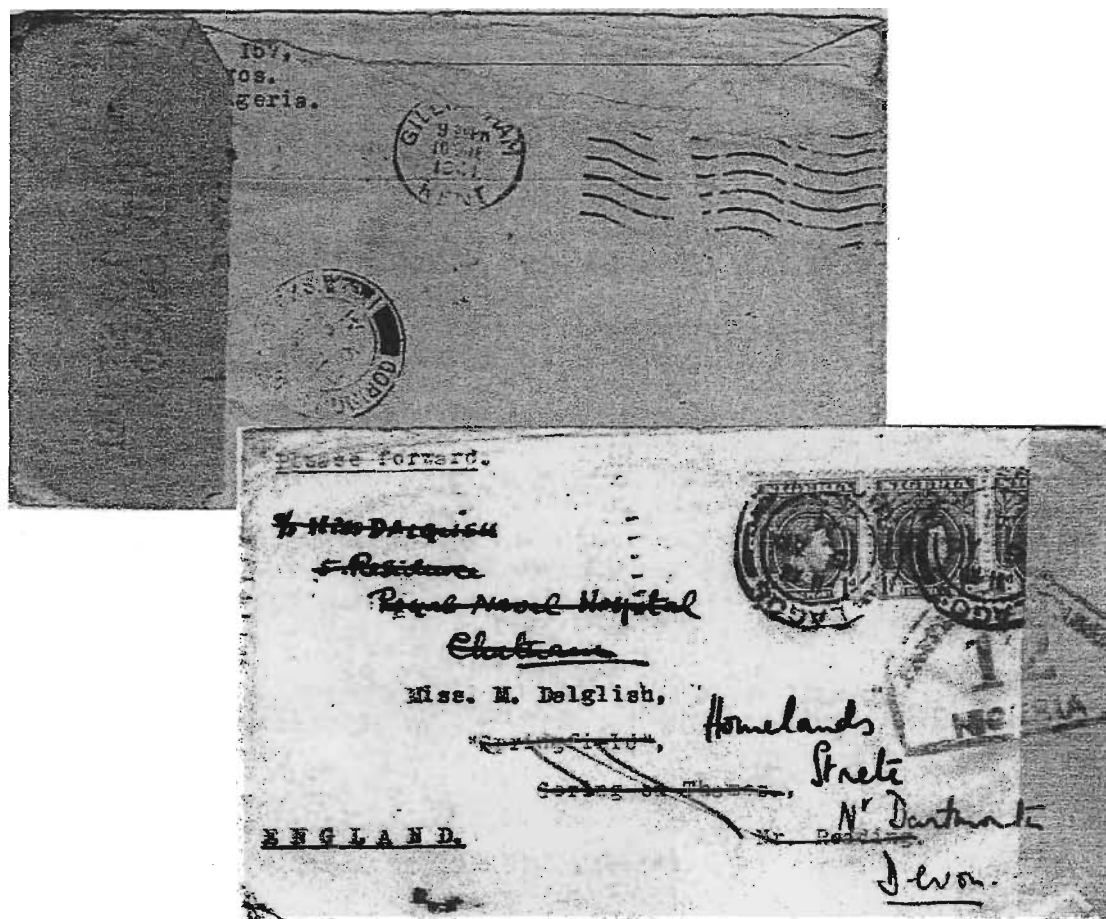
Nigeria - New Censor Label 'Returned to Sender'

Martin Zanone, via Graham Mark

This cover was first illustrated in Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, July 2012, and is reproduced here with permission of the writer and editor, Graham Mark.

The pink label on this cover sent from Lagos to the UK on 5 April 1941 is a previously unrecorded type. It has been used to re-seal the envelope, stuck text-side down, but it is possible to discern that the text reads

NIGERIA
RETURNED TO SENDER
BY THE CENSOR



The letter was sent by surface mail, reaching Goring on Thames 9 June 1941 and Gillingham 10 June 1941.

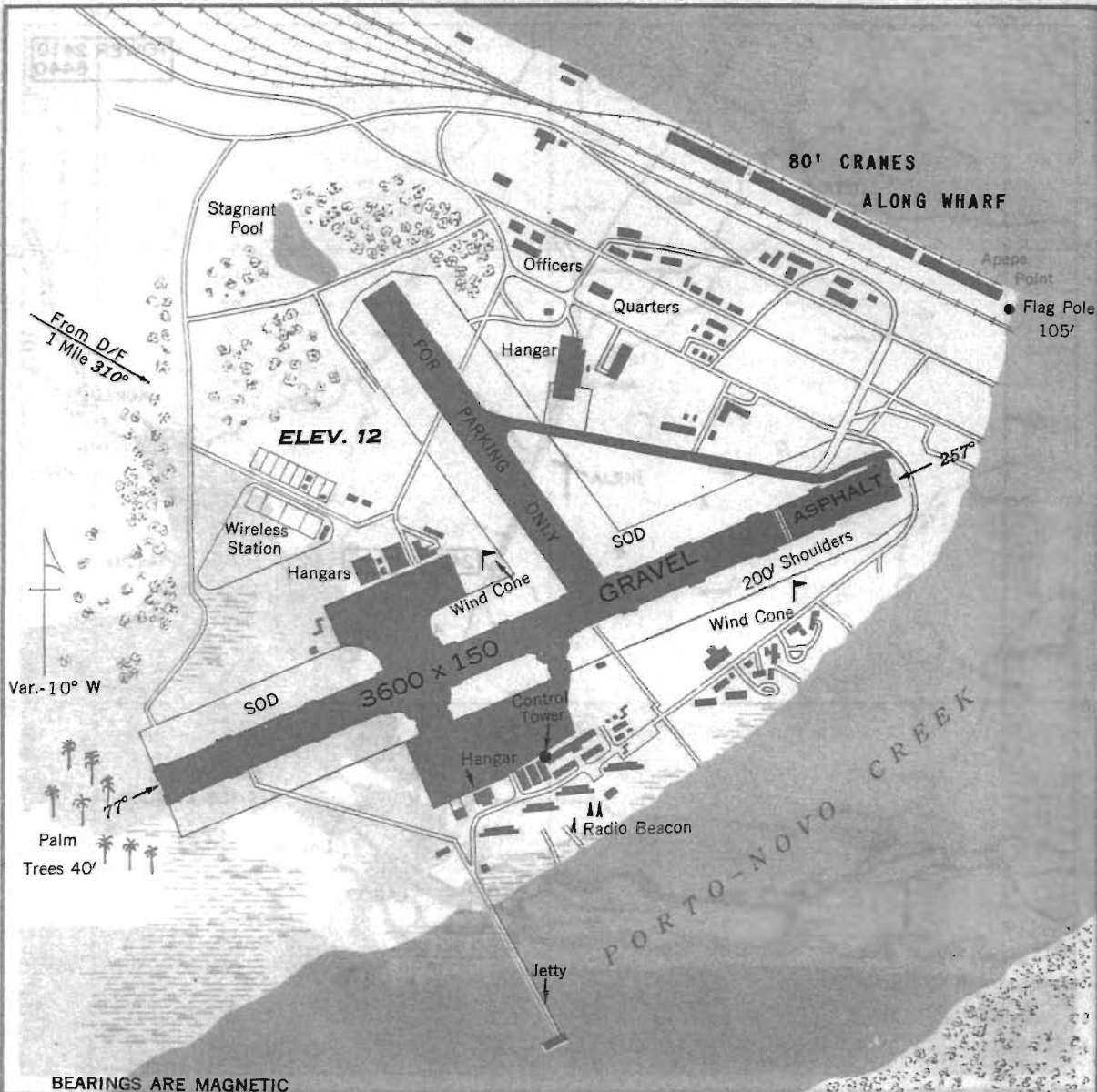


Airports at Lagos

Rob May

Further to Peter Wingent's article in the last *Cameo* (Ref. 1) I can illustrate pages from the pilot's handbook for US Army Air Forces, issued to S/L B.H.M. Winslett, RAF in July 1944, which show that the airfield at Ikeja was also operational by that date. The handbook covers the wartime routes and airfields between Khartoum and Takoradi, and I illustrate the route map. I am looking for a similar handbook that covers the route from Takoradi to Freetown.

LAGOS (APAPA), NIGERIA



BEARINGS ARE MAGNETIC

LAT. $06^{\circ} 26' N.$, LONG. $03^{\circ} 22' E.$

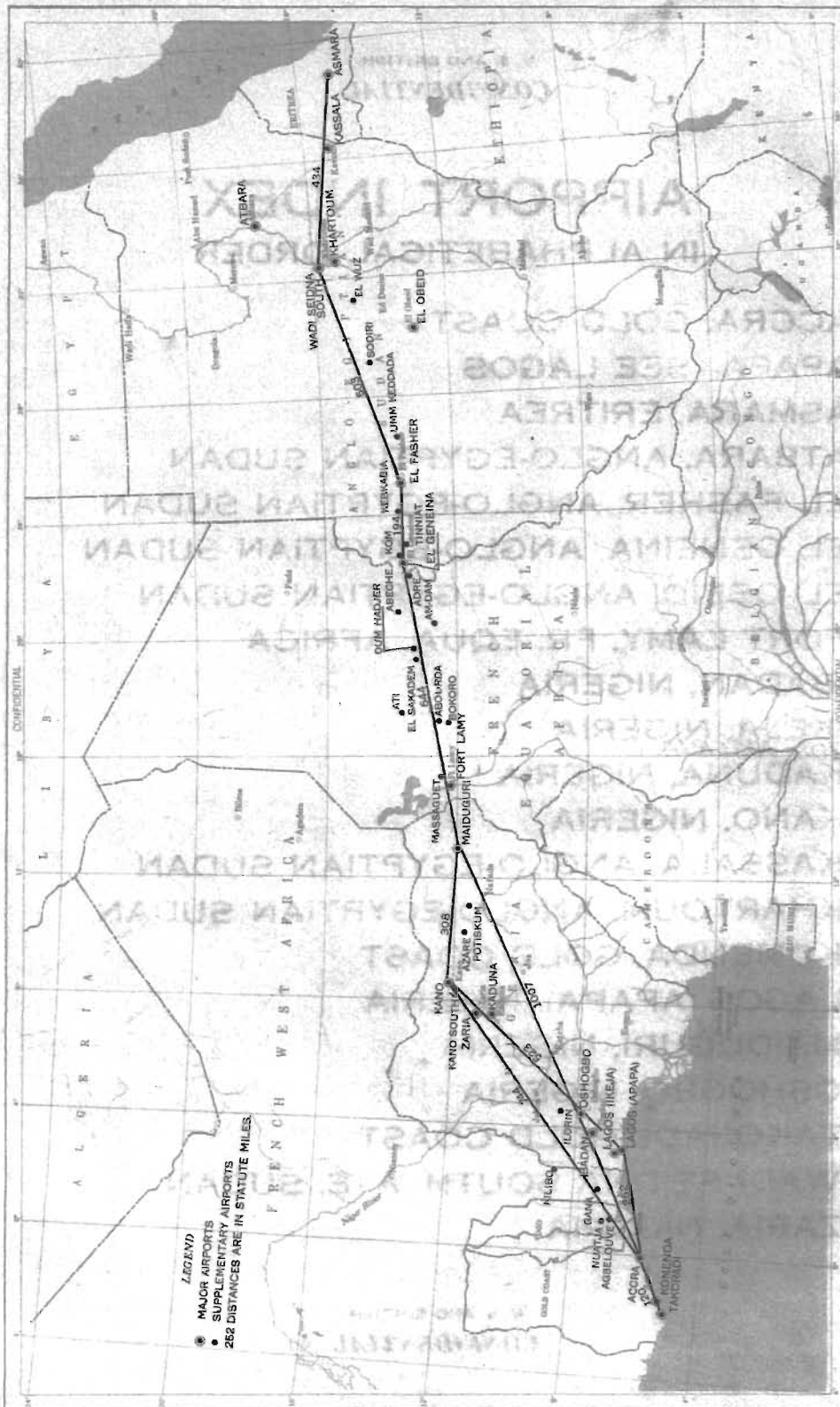
RADIO - US: Air/ground, beacon
 BR: Tower, air/ground
 FR: Air/ground, MF/DF

TOWER CALL - PAPER (BR.).

LIGHTING - Emergency flarepots.
 Obstruction lights.

ROUTE MAP

CONFIDENTIAL



10 JANUARY 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference

- 1 Wingent P., "The Closure of Apapa Aerodrome in June/July 1937", *Cameo*, Volume 13 p83, WASC, June 2012

Togo Parcel Post

John Mayne

The only information regarding parcel post charges from Togo is given by Jeremy Martin (Ref. 1) who lists both internal and external rates from 15 December 1914. I have no details of earlier rates and would welcome information about these.



Figure 1 (reduced)

In the first weeks of the War, German Yacht issues overprinted without currency changes were all treated as 1d; a 1 mark value on cover is recorded on this basis. Figure 1 shows an item almost certainly sent by Stead Pope, on 20 October 1914. The handwriting matches other mail from him and it is addressed to family; probably his father. There are eight different stamps with values unchanged, making a fee of 8d. There are also three 'British' stamps worth 2½d and two 'French' values worth 15c, say 1½d, total postage paid 1/-. At the rates operative from December 1914 this suggests the parcel weighed not more than 3 lb but that makes no allowance for the registration fee of an extra 2d.

Alternatively, if the unchanged values are treated at conversion rates (i.e. 20pf equated to 2d), the postage of 220pf prepaid in German currency stamps was equivalent to 1/10d. Adding the further 4d in British and French stamps gives 2/2d in all, suggesting a parcel of up to 7 lb, attracting 2/- postage plus 2d registration fee.

The item, endorsed "per S.S. Mendi", has a German registration label and arrived at Liverpool 16 November 1914. Catalogue numbers shown alongside each adhesive were added at a later date. The front measures 7 in x 10½in. The colour of the wrapping suggests the paper is of German origin. This item was recorded by me several years ago and I recently acquired it. It carries a certificate from a French auction house of standing.

Figure 2 shows a similar item sent at a later date, which I acquired some time ago (see note 1). It is also addressed to Stead Pope but in a different handwriting. The paper is of the same colour and texture and it is registered using a German registration label. This wrapping is complete and measures 16in x 18½in. It was posted from Lome on 20 May 1915 and has a Liverpool arrival datestamp of 7 June 1915. It also has a post office label to show it was unsuitable for transfer by mail apparatus!



Figure 2 (reduced)

A range of Gold Coast overprinted values have been affixed. Peter Duggan (Ref. 2) states that these were released on 19 May and illustrates a philatelic 'Wilson' cover posted that day to the UK, routed via Plymouth 6 June 1915. I have seen no other values cancelled on the first day of issue; those affixed to this package were cancelled at Lome the following day. Postage of 3/6d was paid.

With the registration fee at 2d this appears to have been overpaid by 4d. Postage for an unregistered parcel not exceeding 11 lb was 3/- and then the parcel tariff increased in steps of 1/-. Comments will be welcome; I have seen no other parcel mail from Togo for this period.

References

- 1 Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo: The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, p25, WASC, Sheffield 1995
- 2 Duggan P. *Togo: Overprints on Stamps of the Gold Coast 1915-1920*, pp94, WASC, Reading 2005

Note

- 1 Ed. - John Mayne wrote to me in September 2006 to report that Philangles auction house had offered in their July 2006 sale a batch of 17 items of Stead Pope mail to and from Togo, which had been consigned to them by a relative of Stead Pope, whose family originated in Rhyl, North Wales. The sale included the parcel wrapper shown as Figure 2.



Sierra Leone KEVII 5s Forgery

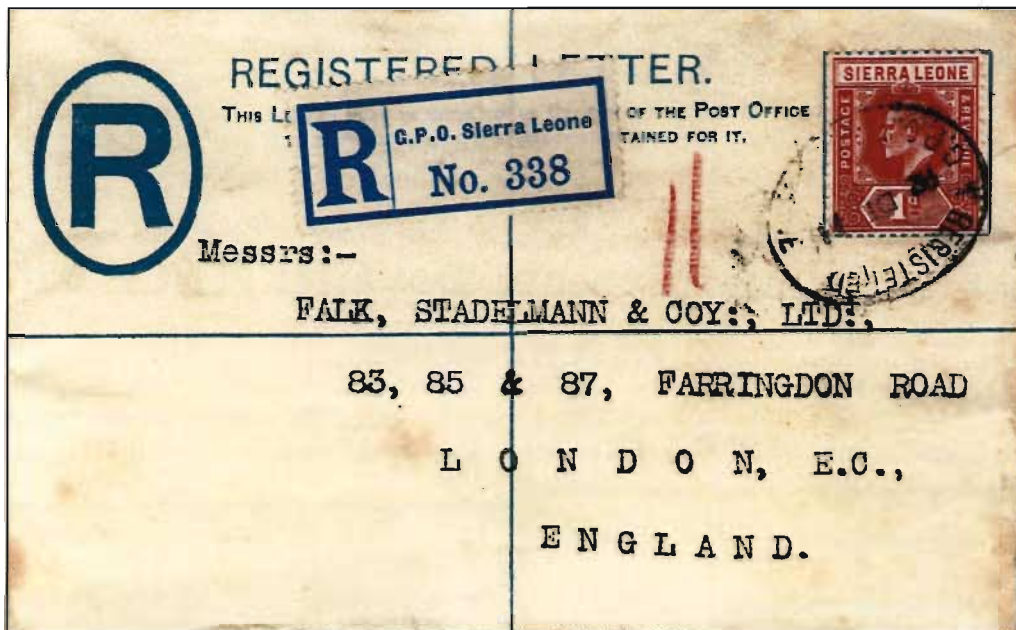
Please refer to the letter from Jeremy Martin on page 124.



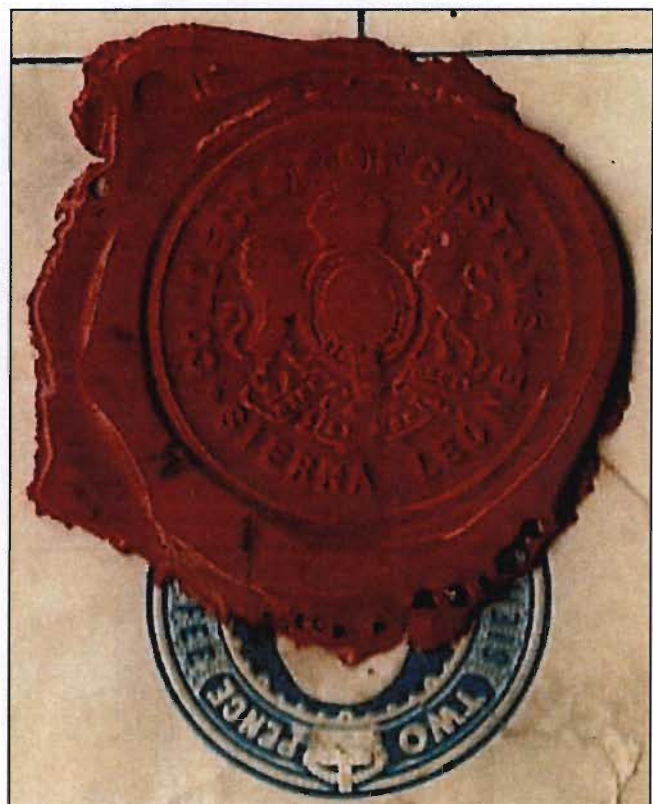
Another Sierra Leone Wax Seal

Keith Hanman

I was interested in the article *Sierra Leone Wax Seals* by Ray Revell in *Cameo* 85, page 12. These are scarce and worth the extra premium that some dealers may charge.



I have several of these, and illustrate one here. The illustration above of a Registration Fee (2d) Envelope, with an additional 1d adhesive, was posted from Freetown on 12 December 1911, and has a backstamp of London for 24 December 1911. The wax seal bears the words 'COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS / SIERRA LEONE surrounding a Coat of Arms.



Kejetia Cancel, Gold Coast

Ian Anderson



In my recently updated Gold Coast postmarks book, I listed KEJETIA as 'No Example Known'. Of course such a statement is quickly dispelled and Tony Banks has forwarded an example in his collection, illustrated here. This is a type 19a dated 31 FE 1930.

I am grateful to Tony for informing me of quite a few unlisted items and to other members who have also sent in updates. All of these, and any more that others can tell me about, are recorded and will be in the next edition in ten(?) years time.



Sierra Leone First Sixpence 'Dot after PENCE' Variety

Frank Walton FRPSL

Since 1997 Stanley Gibbons have listed the 'Dot after SIX' variety which appears on the third stamp of the fourth row of Pane 12, or Row 19/11 as defined by SG (Ref. 1).

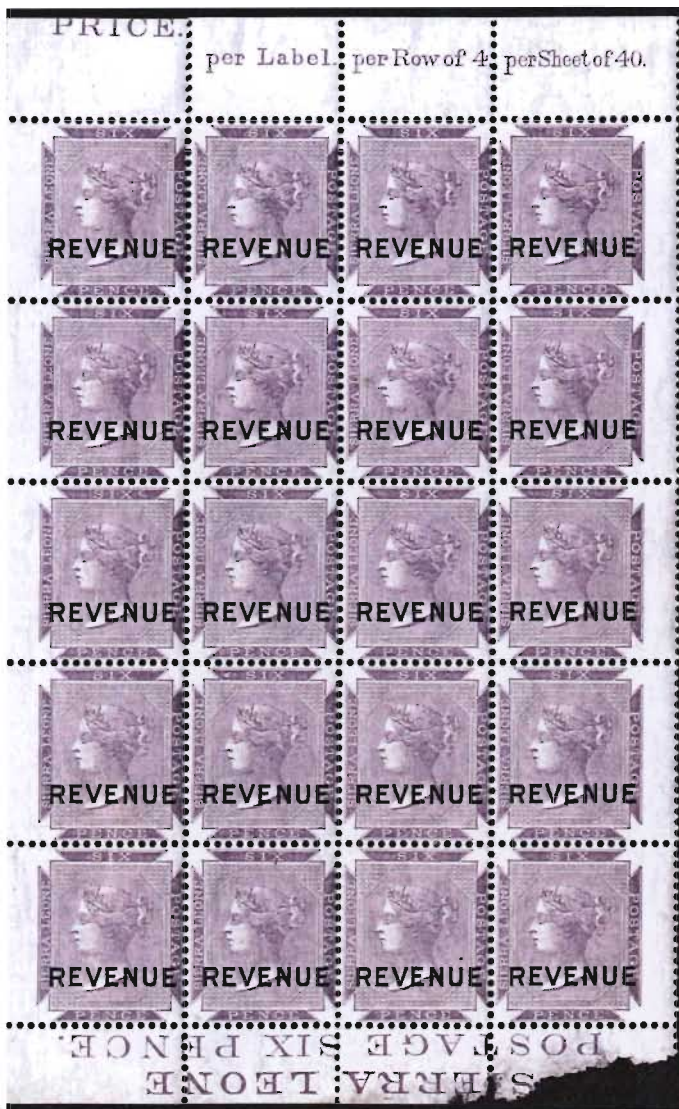


Figure 1 1884 REVENUE Printing



Figure 2 1896 10th Printing

There is an equally prominent variety which has become known as the 'Dot after PENCE' variety. To date Stanley Gibbons have not included it in the catalogue. This second variety is on the top right stamp of Pane 11, or Row 16/8.

The positioning is confirmed by two large blocks, shown in Figures 1 and 2, page 134.

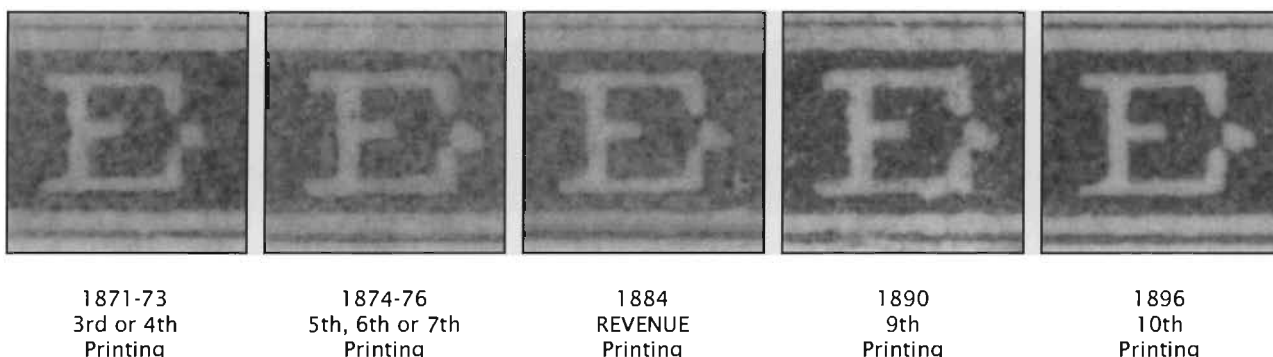


Figure 3 The five printings so far recorded

One unanswered question remains on this variety: when did it first occur? So far I have recorded it on stamps from 1871-73 onwards (Fig. 3), but whether it exists on stamps from the earlier printings remains a mystery still to be solved.

As this variety occurs just once per sheet of 240 stamps, then it is possible to say how many examples could exist. Below is a summary of the numbers possible, and also of the numbers recorded. There are not very many!

Cat	Date	Printing	Max. Copies	Mint Seen	Used Seen
SG 3	1871-73	3rd, 4th	114	1	0
SG 4	1874-76	5th, 6th, 7th	268	0	1
SG 35	1878	8th	158	0	0
Bft 3	1884	REVENUE	128	2	-
SG 36	1890	9th	74	1	1
SG 37	1896	10th	128	1	1

It is interesting to compare the white flaw on the five different printings known to date. The 'Dot after SIX' variety does show signs of getting more pronounced over time, but these stamps show that the flaw remains constant over at least 20 years of production.

The positioning of this variety means that it should have a wing margin on its right on the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th printings (i.e. SG 1, 2, 4 & 35), and the REVENUE printing (Barefoot 3) (Ref. 2). The one example recorded so far on SG 4 has a re-perforated wing margin.

Should anyone have examples of this variety, especially on the first two printings, then I would be delighted to hear from them.

References

- 1 *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1 British Commonwealth 1997 Edition*, Stanley Gibbons, London & Ringwood, 1996
- 2 Philip Quirk, "Perforations of the First Sierra Leone 6d: Line or Comb?", *London Philatelist*, Vol 119, pp213-216, Jul-Aug 2010



Empress of Australia Tristan Cover of 1935

Keith Hanman

I recently bought a GB collection and found this cover (Figure 1) from Tristan da Cunha, written aboard the RMS *Empress of Australia* on 2 March 1935. The GB 1½d 1934 stamp (paying the letter rate to the US for letters up to one ounce) has been cancelled with the Type V cachet in blue. Note the break in the inner ring under 'HA'. The reverse of the envelope has the cachet for the shipping line.

Figure 2 shows the enclosed letter written on notepaper of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Lines Cruises. According to Crabb (Ref. 1) the *Empress of Australia* called at Tristan on 22 March, and landed the 'Tristan mail' at Buenos Aires on 28 March 1935.

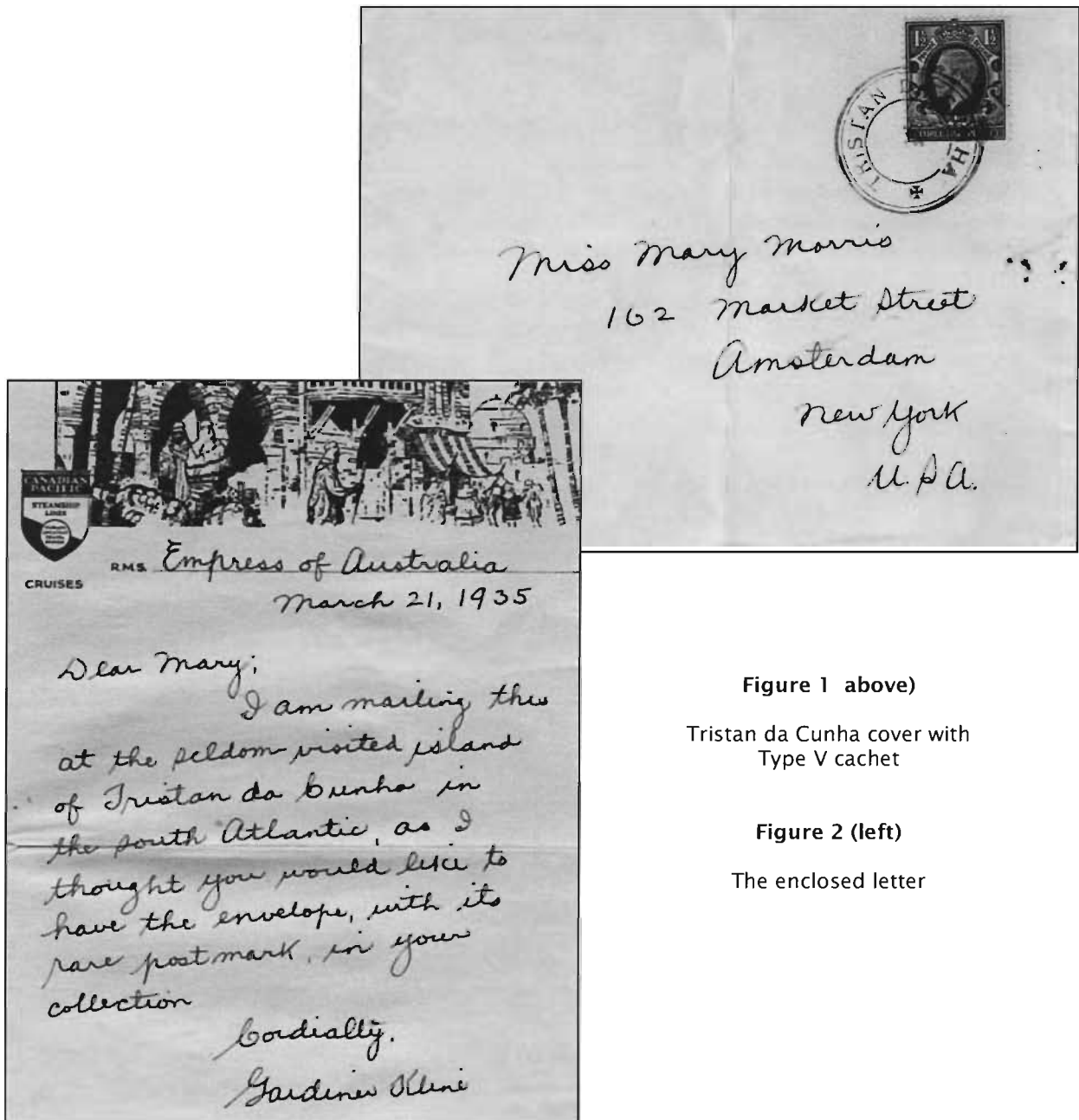


Figure 1 above)

Tristan da Cunha cover with
Type V cachet

Figure 2 (left)

The enclosed letter

Reference

- 1 Crabb G., *The History and Postal History of Tristan da Cunha*, p213, published by the author, Epsom 1980

Letter from St Helena 1815 -Rate Explained?

Bernard Mabbett

Looking through *Cameo* 78 recently I was re-reading the article on the 1815 letter from St Helena (Figure 1, Ref. 1). I have been trying to make out the postage rate marks and I believe I have found the answer.



Figure 1 Entire letter written at The Briars, St Helena on Christmas Day 1815

I came across a table listing Ship Letter and mileage charges that I had tucked away (Ref. 2). I had forgotten where I had put it but came across it by chance when sorting out a drawer a few days ago.

The table gives the information that in 1815, Ship Letters from India, Mauritius and the Cape were charged 8d single rate (½oz) and 1/4d double rate (1oz).

I think that the entire letter (a double letter, 1oz) was due to be sent on the regular Mail Packet. (see the crossed out writing at the top of the letter). The charge mark crossed through I believe was '7/-', double the mail packet rate to the UK.

As the *Doris* was en-route from Bengal (India) and the Cape, the letter would have been charged 2/8d as a 1oz India Ship Letter plus mileage charges; double 11d for the mileage from Portsmouth to Cheltenham via London. It would not have gone direct to Cheltenham from Portsmouth. This makes total charges of:-

Double India Ship letter	2/8d
Mileage charge 11d x 2	1/10d
Total charge	4/6d

This is shown as the 4/6 charge mark. If it had gone by the Mail Packet the total charge would have been 8/10d, thus a considerable saving was made by sending it as a Ship Letter.

References

- 1 Hale Michael, "Letter from St Helena 1815", *Cameo* Volume 11 pp190-192, WASC, October 2009
- 2 Robertson Alan W., *A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles*, (Reprint Edition), James Bendon, Limassol 1993

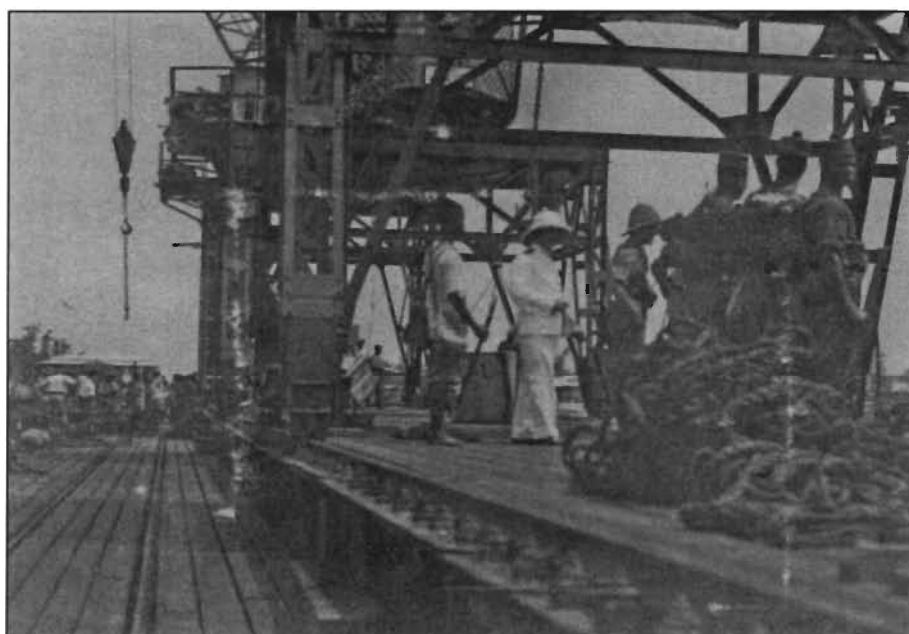
Photographs Taken after the Togo Campaign of 1914

John Mayne

Although the invasion of Togo and subsequent surrender of the Germans there in 1914 after the destruction of the wireless station at Kamina was considered of major military importance, photographs of the events over this short period prove difficult to find.

The 'W.E.P.' Philatelic Handbook by Charles H. Greenwood includes some photographs presumably taken by a war correspondent?

A friend in Germany recently acquired two or three auction lots on EBay; these being described as real photographs of the invasion, and has kindly sent high quality scans.



The first two photographs (above) show British troops arriving at Lome on 12 August 1914.

The next two photographs of the pier show damage inflicted to that structure, although I have never seen any previous reference to retreating forces blowing this apart.



The next photograph shows damage along the Lome - Atakpame railway line.



Another two photographs of the Lome - Atakpame railway:



The final photograph (below) shows the damage to the radio station:



Internal Postal Rates of St Helena

Bernard Mabbett

Little is documented concerning the internal postage rates of St. Helena. It was not until 4 January 1965 that the first internal Local Post system was put into place, with deliveries and collections made to Sub Post Offices in the outlying districts. I use the term Sub Post Offices loosely, as they are little more than collection points at rural shops etc., and transact no post office business (such as registration) at all.

During our third visit to St Helena in January/February 2009 Barry Burns and I discovered a document outlining a plan to introduce door to door deliveries, and to increase the current internal mail rate from 3p to 5p with effect from 1 January 1994. The document (Fig. 1) states that there has been no increase in the 3p rate for 13 years (i.e. since 1980).

217

Figure 1

Memo. to Chief Secretary requesting
internal mail price increase

GOVERNMENT OF ST HELENA
POST OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

<p>From: Ag Postmaster</p> <p>Ref: D/018/456</p> <p>Dated: 13 November 1993</p>		<p>To: Chief Secretary</p> <p>Ref:</p> <p>Dated:</p>
--	--	---

POST OFFICE : ERT RECOMMENDATION NO 3.

"That the price of internal mail be increased to 5p and reviewed annually."
Implementation date 1/94
The Post Office has accepted this recommendation.

Legal Notice No 14 of 1993 Second Schedule which sets out the Internal Postage Rates and Other Charges, came into effect on 1st May 1993.


The ERT quite rightly mentioned, that the current price of internal mail of 3p is too low and would fail to bring in enough revenue for the delivery service to be financially viable. Prior to the last review in May 1993 it is 13 years since this rate was increased. It is therefore recommended that the rate for internal mail be increased to 5p with effect 1 January 1994.

Plans are in hand to introduce a door to door delivery service throughout the island. (ERT recommendation No 1) implementation time 1/94. In order to get started we need firstly to review the current postage rates for local deliveries.

The Chamber of Commerce are currently very enthusiastic about the proposal and are eager for its introduction. It is envisaged that the volume of mail expected through the system by the traders would be in the region of 40220 per year and the amount of revenue earned be £2011. Revenue could increase if full use is made of the service provided eg. Small Packets, Registration & Recorded Delivery etc.

Also if we are to deliver all of the Government Local mail then a considerable amount of revenue could be expected.

I trust that you will give this recommendation your full support.


Ag Postmaster

COPIED ON #114

cc: FS

Having searched through my collection I can illustrate (Fig. 2) a (philatelic) cover at the 2p rate dated 29 November 1976.

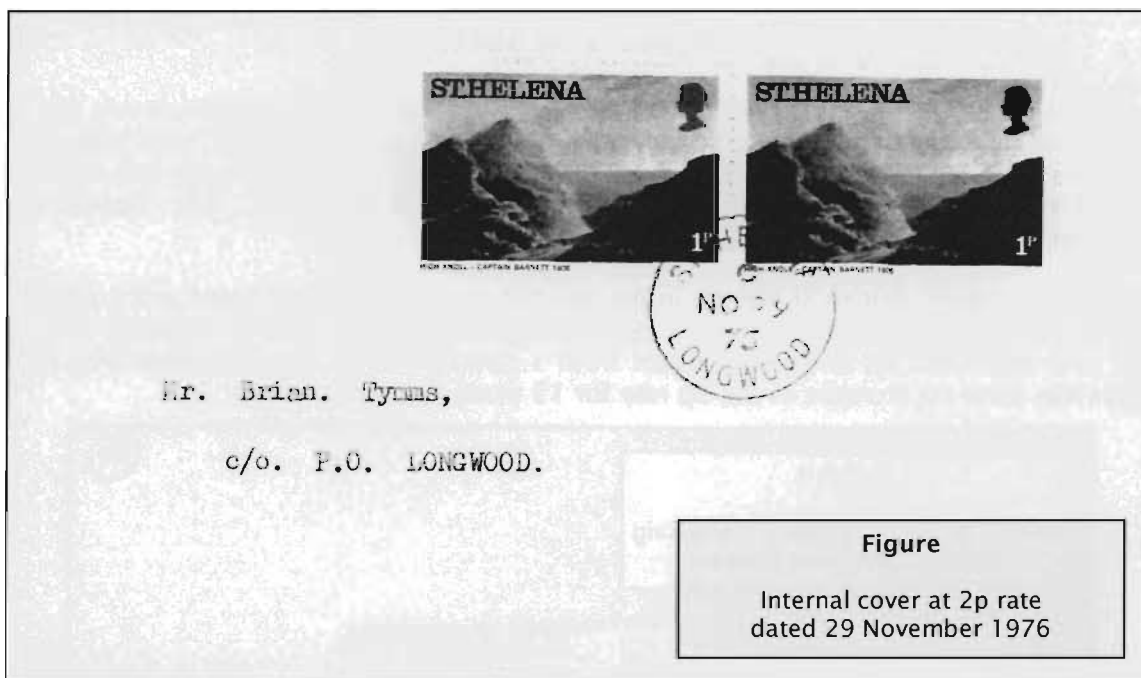


Figure
Internal cover at 2p rate
dated 29 November 1976

I illustrate below two covers at the 3p rate which came into use 1980/81 dated 13 August 1993 (Fig. 3) and 24 February 1994 (Fig. 4). This shows that the proposed increase to 5p either did not come into use on 1 January 1994 as planned, or was missed by the postal clerk.

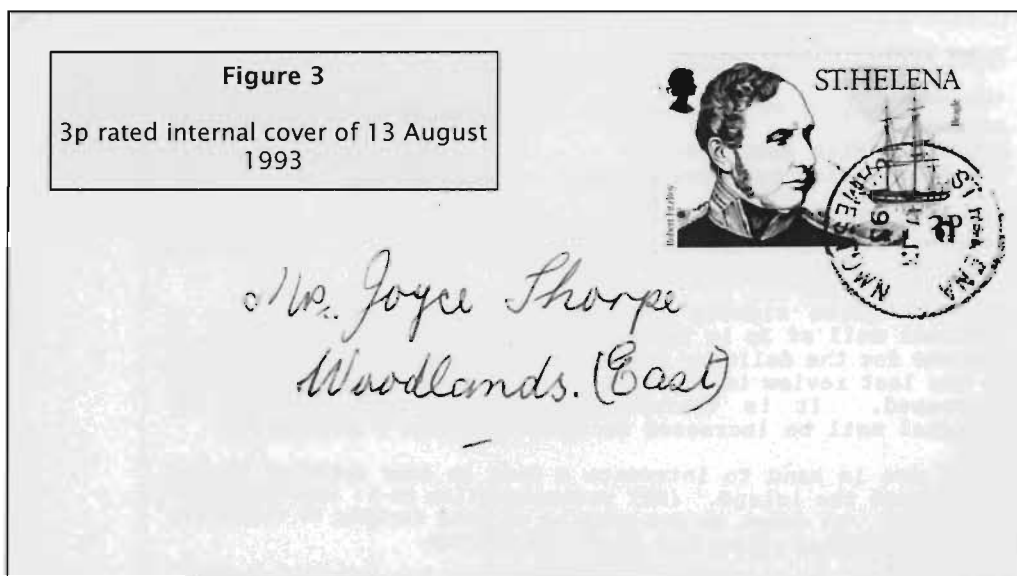


Figure 3
3p rated internal cover of 13 August
1993

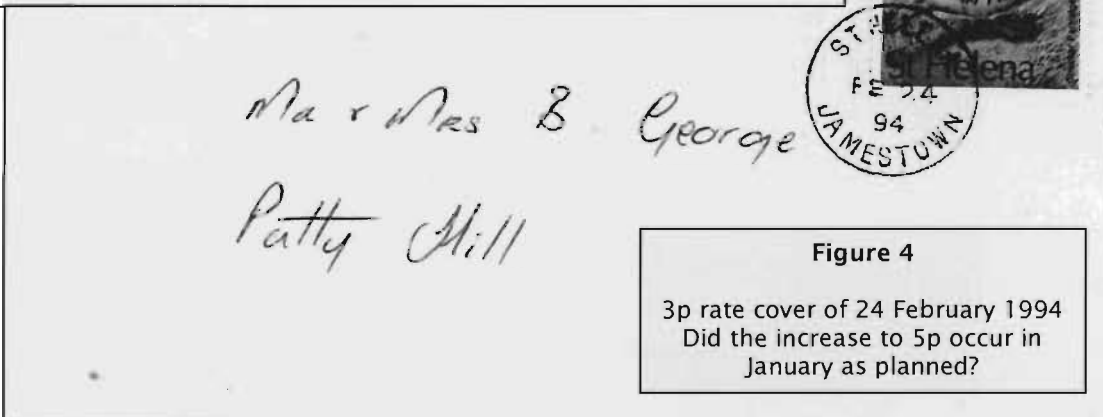
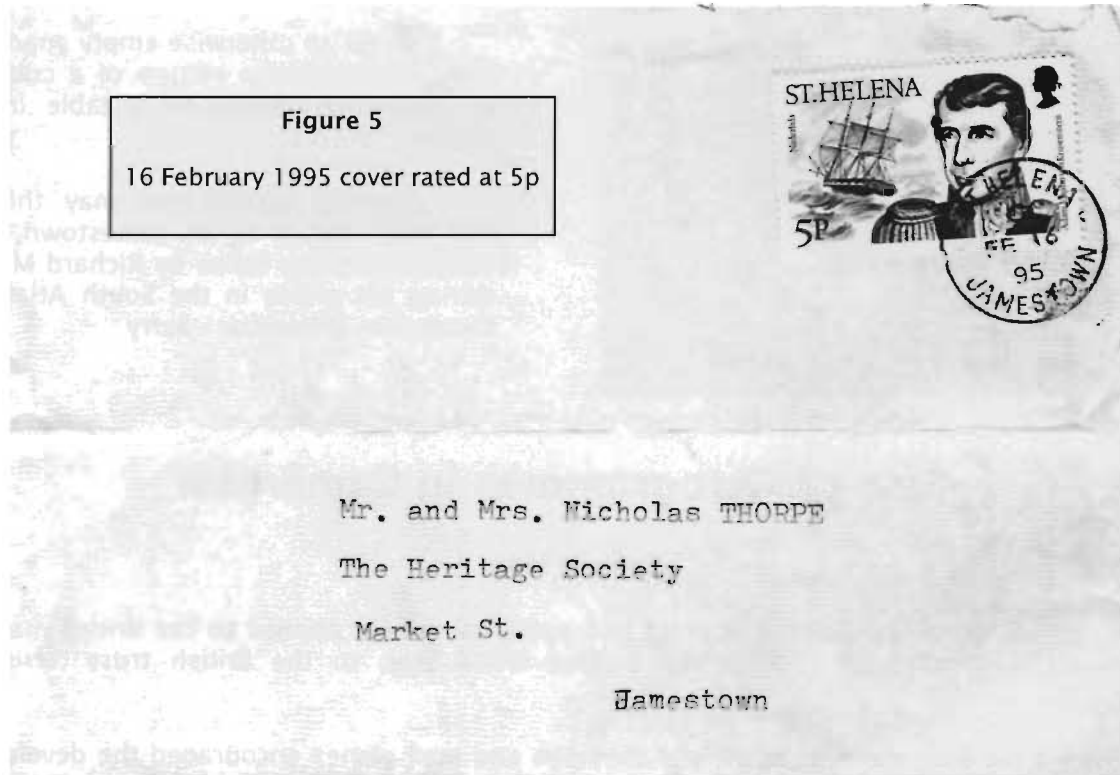


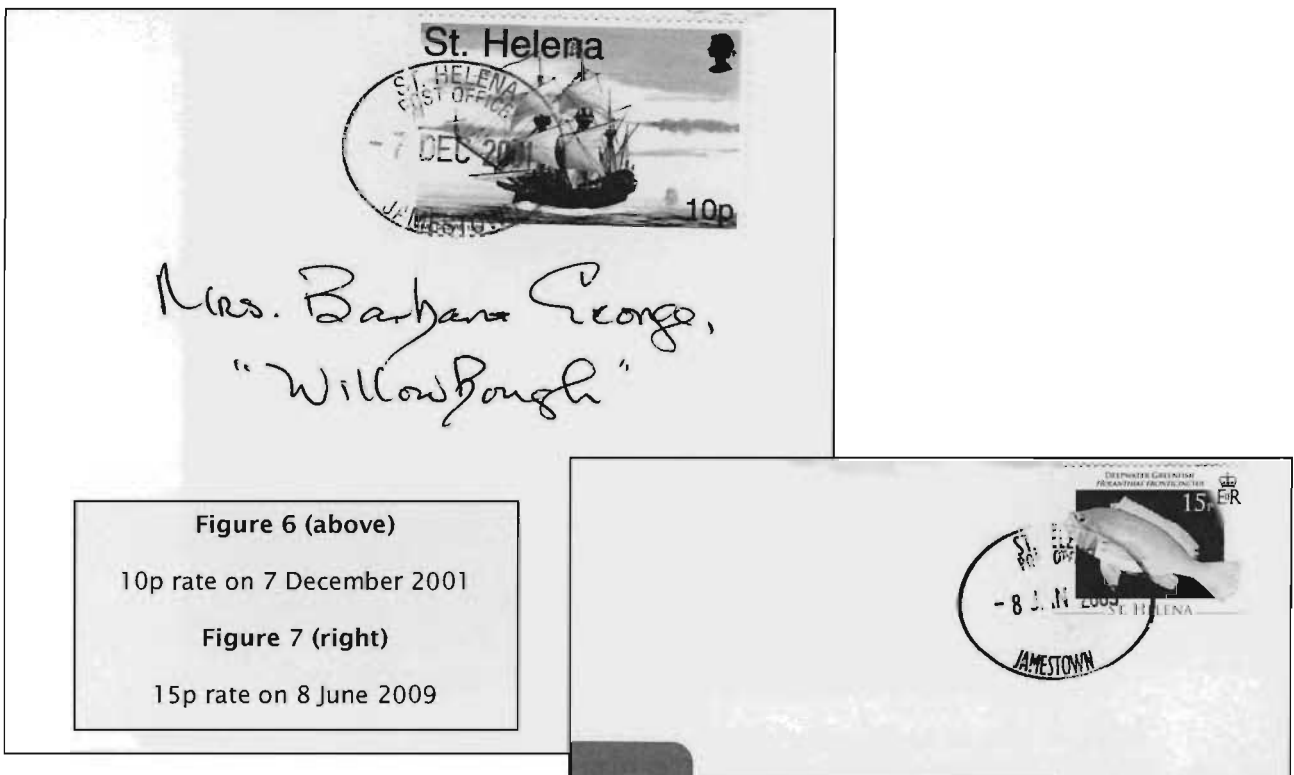
Figure 4
3p rate cover of 24 February 1994
Did the increase to 5p occur in
January as planned?

Figure 5 shows a cover at the 5p rate dated 16 February 1995.



By the time Barry and I visited the island for the first time in 1998 the internal rate had increased to 10p, and I illustrate a small cover dated 2 January 2002 at this rate (Fig. 6).

This remained in force until early 2003, and finally I illustrate a business window envelope of 8 June 2009 at the new rate of 15 p (Fig. 7). St. Helena had kept the 3p rate for internal mail for 13 years, but within the next 10 had increased it five-fold to 15p.





To fill an otherwise empty space, I am illustrating this picture of a couple of issues of *Cameo* on a table in a library.

Nothing special you may think, but this library is in Jamestown, St Helena, and was taken by Richard Moss during his cruise in the South Atlantic Ocean last December - Barry

Use of Aerogrammes in Cameroun

Rob May

Nigerian postal regulations, stamps and postal stationery applied to the British mandated territory of Cameroons and, after the Second World War, to the British trust territory of Cameroons.

During the war, weight restrictions on cargo and mail planes encouraged the development of lightweight air letters initially for service personnel then latterly for civilian use. These were popular because the total cost of 6d for UK and British Empire destinations compared with the single weight rate firstly of 1/-, then 1/3d, for ordinary air mail letters.

These aerogrammes were on sale in the British Cameroons from 1944 until after re-unification. Figure 1 shows typical use of a Nigerian 6d Ife Bronze aerogramme to the UK.

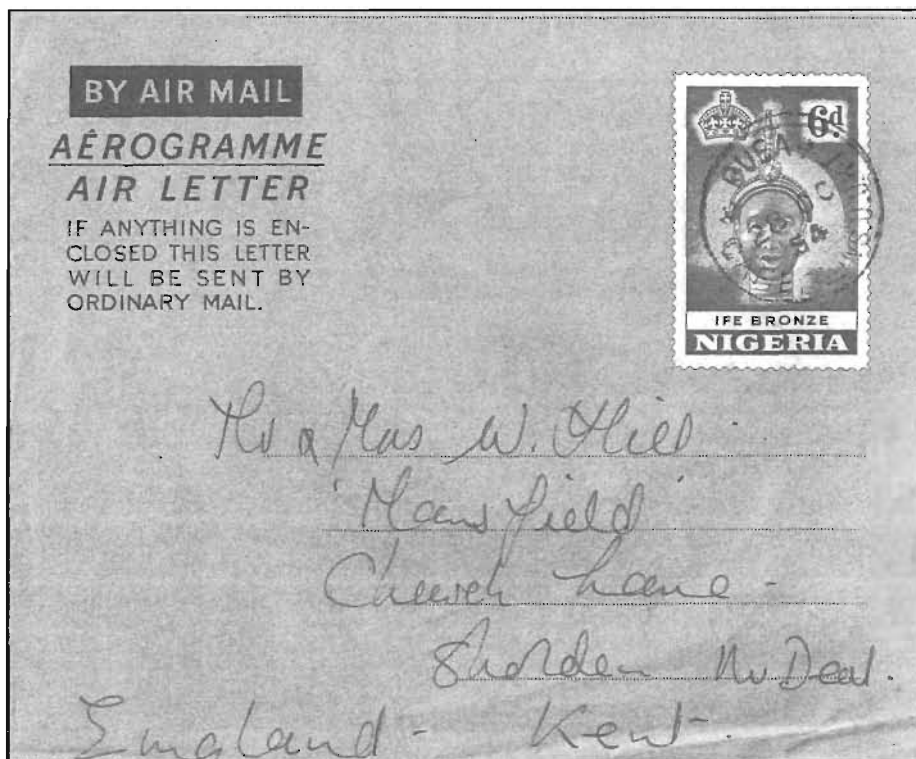


Figure 1 QEII 6d aerogramme with imprinted Ife Bronze stamp design, used from the hospital at Ekena, postmarked Buea / Cameroons U.K.T.T, (Maddocks & Bratzel # 37) on 28 October 1954

Formula aerogrammes (ones without an imprinted stamp design) were also available. A display of Sierra Leone aerogrammes by Peter Rolfe at the 2012 Salisbury meeting raised the interesting question of whether and when formula aerogrammes used in West Africa were sold at local post offices.

He displayed formula aerogrammes which were carried into West Africa by shipping lines and by travelling representatives of trading firms, with pre-printed sender's addresses and content relating to business orders, etc. These are printed in English and I refer to them British-type aerogrammes, setting aside the question of whether they were all printed in the UK. Figure 2 shows an example of a formula aerogramme used during the plebiscite period.

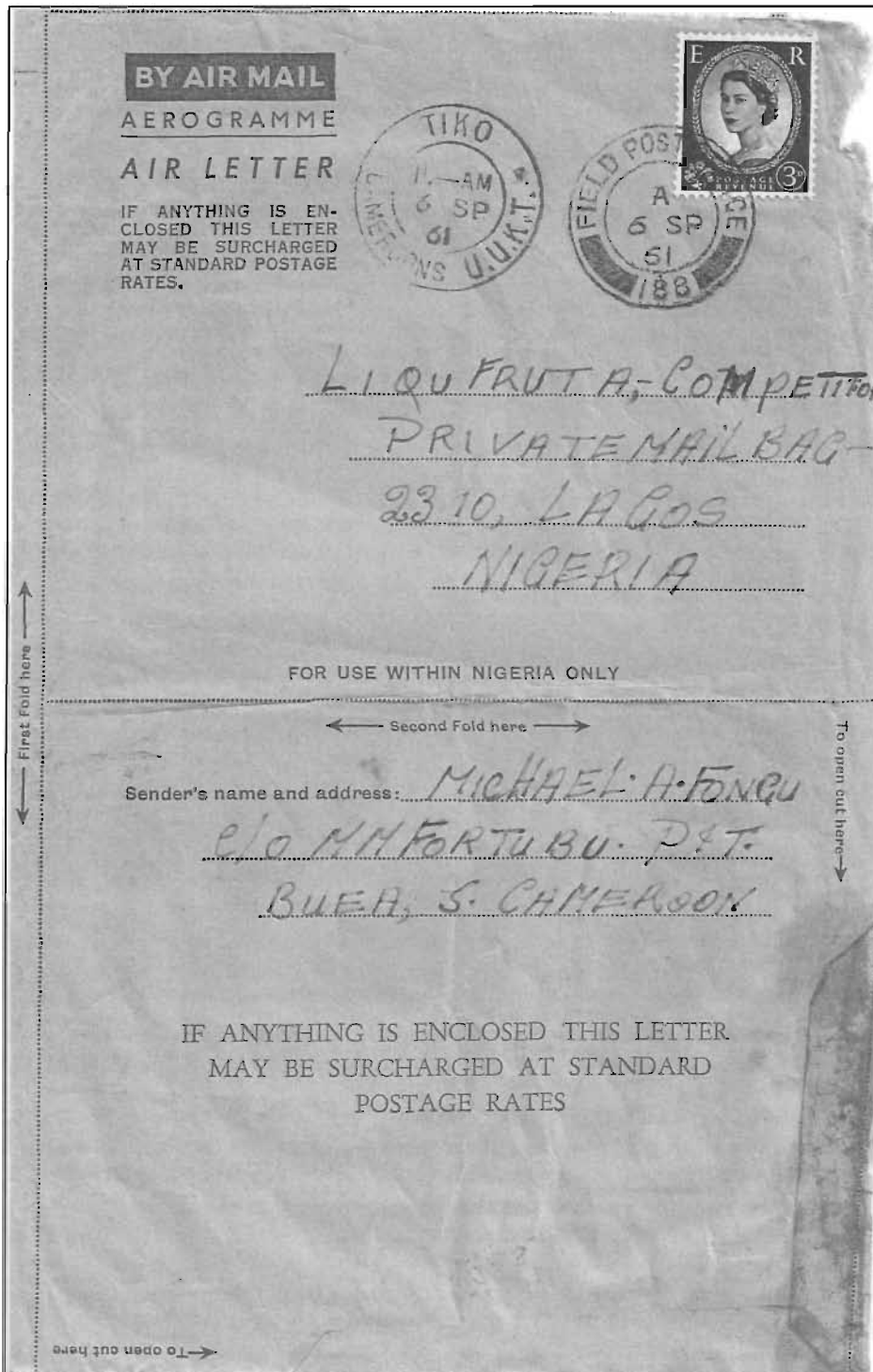


Figure 2 Formula aerogramme in forces use from FPO188, via Tiko Post Office, dated 6 September 1961 (M&B ##127&187), addressed to Lagos, franked with a 3d GB definitive stamp

At that same meeting I asked WASC members if France or any of the French African colonies offered aerogrammes before independence. I don't think the Francophone countries did adopt this form of air mail at all, but I stand to be corrected.

I can be more confident that French Cameroun did not offer this service because Marty Bratzel has published the tariffs (Ref. 1). The last Ordonnance prior to Independence relating to air mail rates (No. 59-83 of 17 December 1959, effective 1 January 1960) makes no reference to any special rate for aerogrammes.

The Federation of Nigeria became Independent on 1 October 1960, but that could not legally include the Cameroons whilst they were held under UN trust status. The territory therefore came under direct control of the Colonial Office in London, pending a plebiscite held to give the populations of the Northern and Southern parts of the Cameroons the opportunity to decide whether to join Independent Cameroun or Independent Nigeria.

This status was recognised by issuing 'Cameroons U.K.T.T. overprints on the pre-independence definitive set of Nigeria. Existing Nigerian aerogrammes were not overprinted but at least two types of formula aerogramme are found franked with the overprinted 6d definitive (Figures 3 & 4).

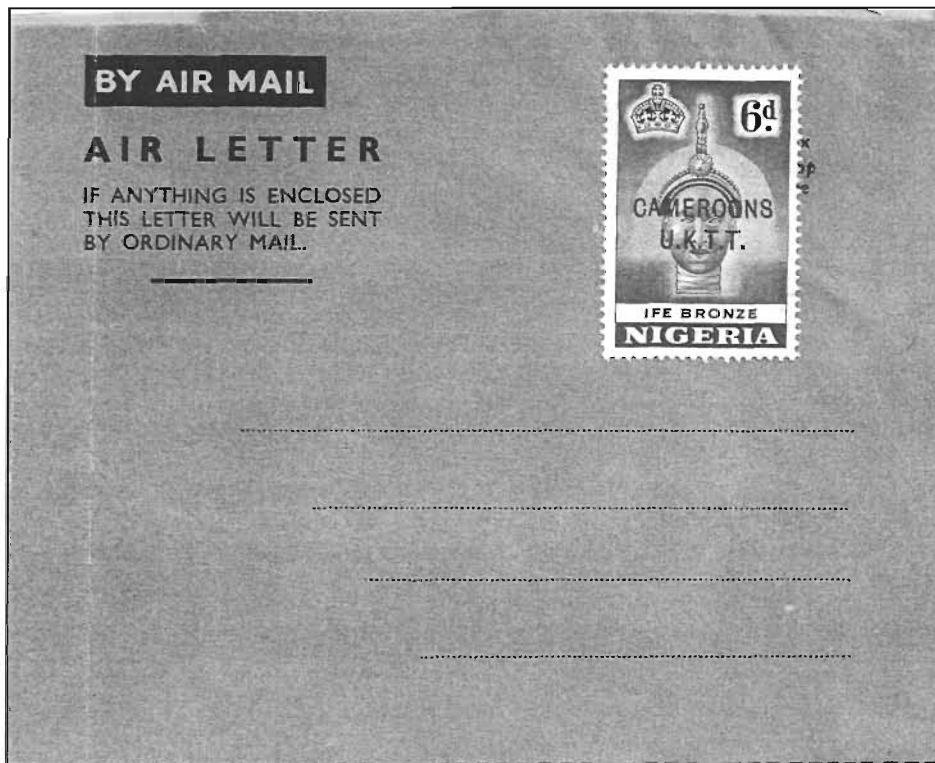


Figure 3 Mint formula aerogramme pre-franked with 6d UKTT definitive, with the ends of the printed words 'affix stamp here' evident to the right of the adhesive.

The outcome of the plebiscite was that the southern, more-populous part of the British Cameroons elected to re-unite with Independent Cameroun, adopting the CFA franc.

A provisional issue of French Cameroun stamps overprinted with Sterling values was issued for sale from 1 October 1961 for use during the currency conversion period in what now became the State of West Cameroun within the Federal Republic of Cameroun. Stamps denominated in CFA francs were not placed on sale in West Cameroun until 1 May 1962.

Marty Bratzel ended his study of Cameroun postal rates at Independence so I do not have the arrêté or Ordonnance which first publicised a CFA franc rate for aerogrammes. Bob Maddocks states (Ref. 2) that during the transition period "Postal rates, etc., remained unchanged, still based on those of Nigeria..."

In a further article (Ref. 4) he states "the former Nigerian postal tariff remained in force with only one minor change (this concerned mail to East Cameroon) until the end of December 1965". Bob commented that "there is a dearth of official information available for research" and the information in his articles is drawn from first hand knowledge; he was resident in West Cameroon at the time, managing the local branch of an international bank.

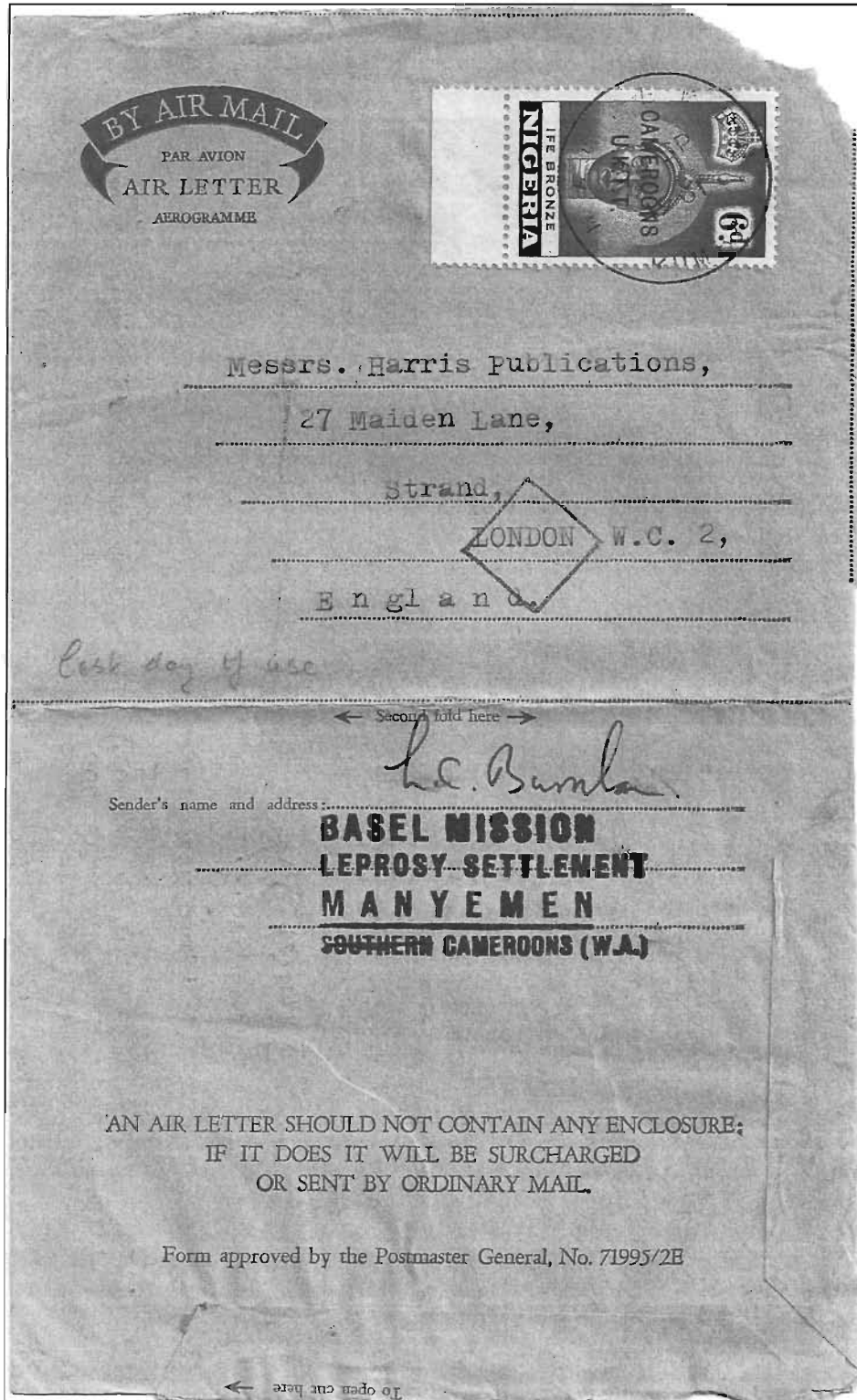


Figure 4 shows a used example of a different style of formula aerogramme postmarked MANYEMEN/KUMBA on the last day of the trusteeship, 30 September 1961 (Maddocks & Bratzel Type 86 and extends their LKD).

Mr Burnham asks for his copy of the Philatelic Magazine to be re-directed to his workplace - the leprosy settlement at Manyemen. He is also a little pessimistic about the new regime "Please let me know in good time when the subscription is due to run out, as the mail will probably be rather poor for a bit."

Currency conversion was effected at the rate of 692f CFA to £1, making 1d worth 2.88f CFA, with the introduction of the CFA franc as legal tender in West Cameroon with effect from 2 April 1962. The sterling overprinted stamps continued on sale and could be bought for CFA francs.

Bob Maddocks gives some examples: "a 3d stamp for an ordinary domestic mailing (which included Nigeria) up to 1oz cost 9f CFA; a 1s3d stamp for an air letter of up to ½oz to England cost 43f CFA, and a 1s9d stamp for similar to North America 61f CFA. Registration cost 6d or 17f CFA.

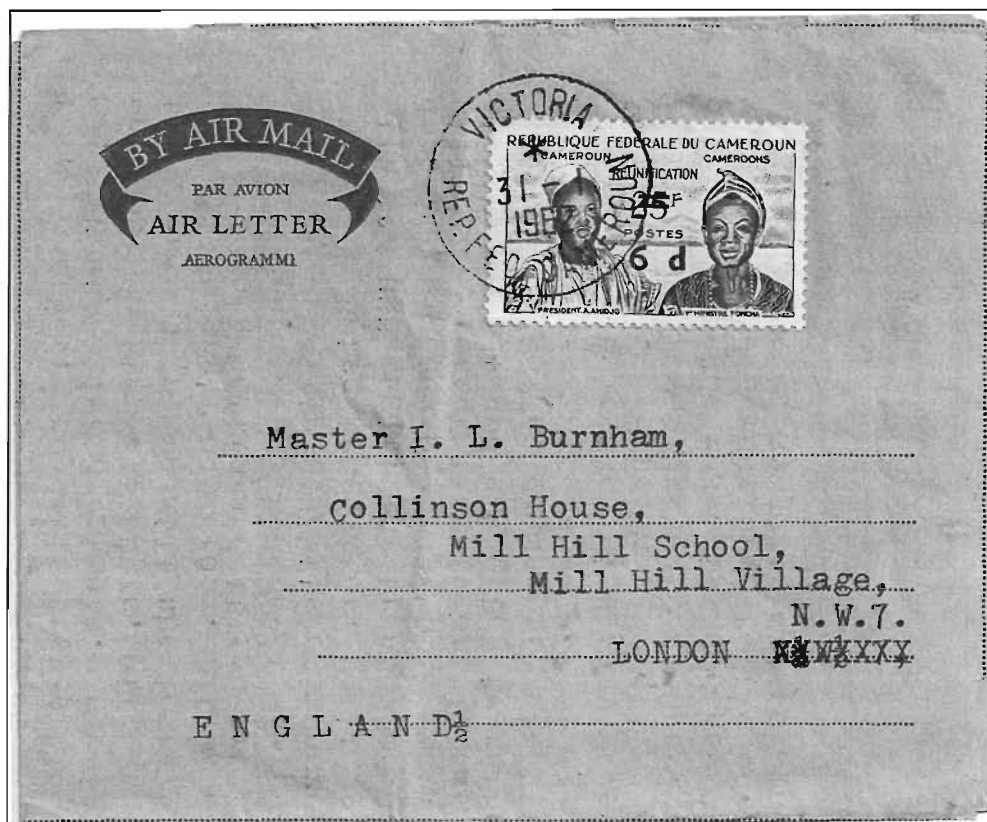


Figure 5 Aerogramme sent to the UK from Victoria on 31 January 1962, showing late use of this withdrawn stamp, sent at the Nigerian 6d aerogramme rate to the UK.

It is postmarked with the first new post-reunification postmark of Victoria, the EKD of which is 5 December 1961, incorporating wording 'REP. FED. CAMEROUN'

From whatever source, formula British-type aerogrammes were available in West Cameroon during 1962 and 1963 and could be sent at the 6d rate to the UK (Figure 5). The writer of this formula air letter (the same writer using the same type of aerogramme as at figure 4), Mr. L.C. Burnham, was writing to his son at school in the UK in January 1962.

At the rate of 2.88f CFA to 1d this 6d aerogramme rate converted to 17.28f CFA, rounded to 17f CFA. A mixed bag of old Cameroun stamps was delivered to West Cameroon post offices from 1 May 1962 (at Victoria; possibly on later dates up country).

These did not include stamps denominated to match the CFA franc conversions from Nigerian postage rates, so covers are found where the sender has rounded up the postage (for instance from 43f CFA to 45f CFA or 50f CFA for air mail to the UK).

Figures 6 and 7 show British-type formula aerogrammes franked 17f CFA; Figure 6 with pre-unification Cameroun stamps and Figure 7 with stamps from the first definitive set post-unification, issued on 15 June 1962 (Ref. 3).

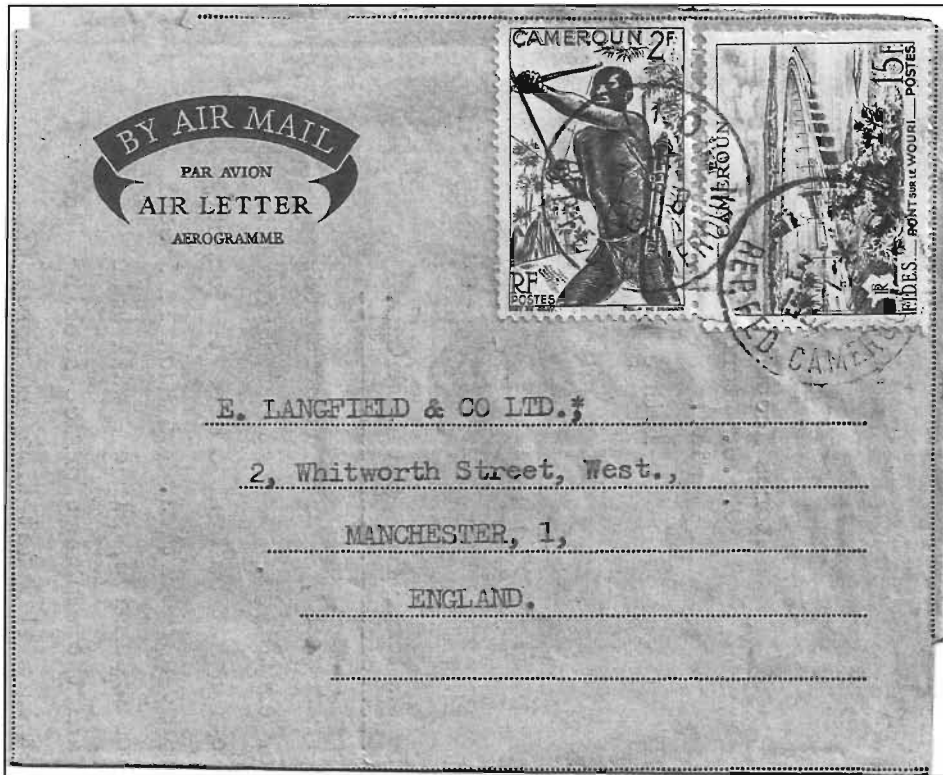


Figure 6 Formula aerogramme (same type as Figure 4) franked with 17f CFA of pre-Independence French Cameroun stamps written at CDC Stores Accounts Office at Tiko on 16 July 1962, postmarked Tiko 3 August 1962



Figure 7 Formula aerogramme franked with 17f CFA of post-unification Cameroun stamps written from Elders & Fyffes Plantation at Likomba 21 April 1963, postmarked Tiko the next day

The first air letters for use throughout the Federal Republic were issued at rates of 9f CFA (internal) and 18f CFA (external), commemorating the first anniversary of the Unification

on 1 October 1962 (their first issue date and the announcement of the 18f CFA aerogramme rate for international use from East Cameroon may have been earlier).

Figure 8 shows the 9f CFA aerogramme up-rated to 17f CFA, for use to the UK from West Cameroon at the continuing 6d (Nigerian) rate saving the princely sum of 1f CFA compared to the international 18f CFA aerogramme!



Figure 8 1962 9f CFA internal aerogramme up-rated to 17f CFA to the UK, postmarked Buea 5 October 1964. Message from the CDA (Cameroun Development Authority), repeating a previous cable "Goods shipped per SS *Oranyan* not yet received delay causing unreasonable losses Understood SS *Oranyan* never reached Tiko"

Bob Maddocks (Ref. 3) recollected that the effective date for the harmonisation of all postal tariffs for East and West Cameroon was 1 January 1966 (yet to be verified from official sources). The reason for the long-extended use of Nigerian postal rates from April 1962 was to do with weights and measures. Cameroon used the metric system whilst Nigeria used Imperial measures so their postal rates, based on weight steps denominated by different measures, could not be harmonised even after the country was using a common currency.

The population of West Cameroon was suspicious of the inflationary effect of a change to weights and measures, not helped by their experience of inflation and fraud during the currency conversion. It became politically expedient to delay metrication of weights and measures to reduce the risk of civil unrest.

The aerogramme rates of 17f CFA for West Cameroon and 18f CFA for East Cameroon were closely matched so the weights and measures issue was not, at least to start with, an important factor for the use of these. Figure 9 shows use of the 18fr CFA aerogramme from Victoria in 1965, whilst the use of currency-converted old Nigerian postal rates was in its final year.

As this was the first time Cameroon PT&T had offered an aerogramme service at all I wonder why the rate was not set to start at 17fr for the whole country. I suspect the answer is simple - the Post Office would make more by rounding up 17.28f CFA to 18f CFA!

I have a mint copy of a 30fr CFA aerogramme in the 'Lamantin' design from the 1962 definitive set but I do not know when such a rate increase was implemented. If this rate change

happened before January 1965, it is possible that the sender of the '1962 design' aerogramme shown below, sent that month, was using the continuation of Nigerian postal rates for mails from West Cameroon until the end of 1965 to their advantage.

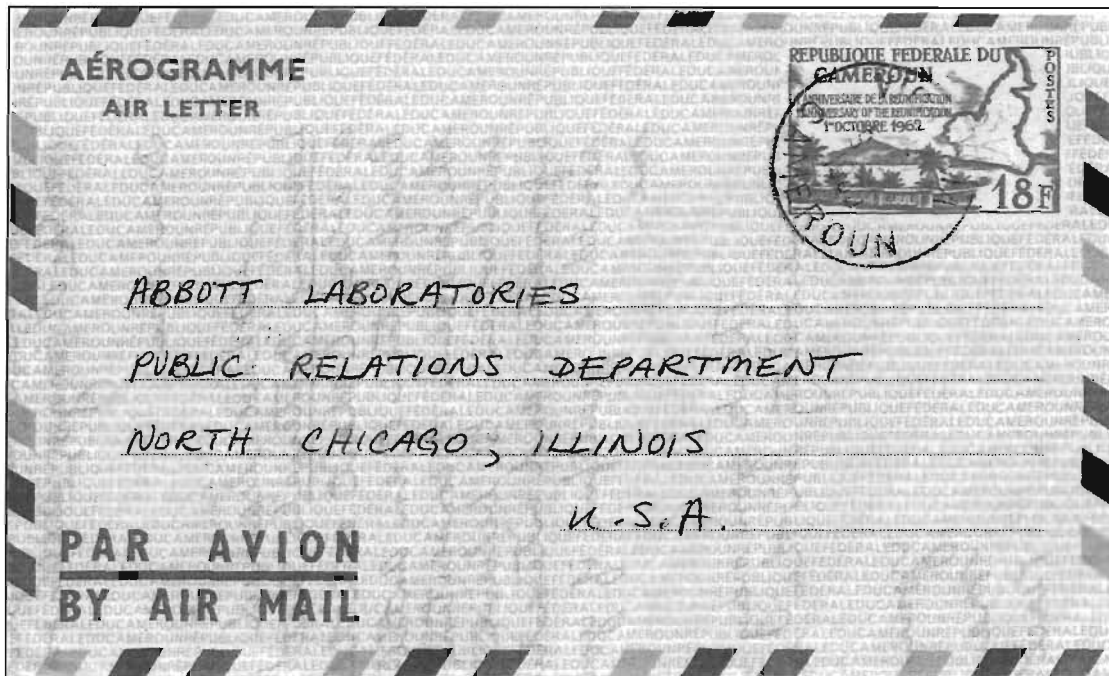


Figure 9 '1962 design' 18fr external aerogramme from Victoria 9 January 1965 to USA sent by a Peace Corps teacher working at St Josephs College, Sasse

References

- 1 Bratzel M.P., *The Postal tariffs of Cameroun under French administration - 1916-1959* CD-R Appendix, MPB, Canada 2007
- 2 Maddocks R.J., "Southern Cameroons", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, pp64-67, September 1999
- 3 Maddocks R.J., "Southern Cameroons in Postal Transition", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, pp80-85, January 2002



Exhibition of the Stamps of some of the African Colonies

W. Dorning Beckton

Whilst looking for information on the issues of St Helena through the bound volumes of the journal The Philatelic Record at the library of RPSL recently, I came upon this report of a meeting held in 1902 (Ref. 1).

I thought it sufficiently interesting to publish it here, as it not only gives details of some amazing collections, but the style of writing gives an interesting comparison with the modern approach. Particularly interesting are the reference to De La Rue, and the fact that no less than five 'Post Office' Mauritius were on view!

I have reported the West African colonies in full, but the others have been severely pruned to give only the barest detail.

As 110 years have now past since the report first appeared I am hoping there will be no copyright concerns, and I apologise if any descendants of Dorning Beckton take exception to this reprint - Barry

A Private Exhibition of the Stamps of the African Colonies other than those directly affected by the late war was held in the Rooms of the Philatelic Society, London, (*now Royal Philatelic Society London*) on Saturday, December 13th, 1902.

The Exhibition was a corollary to the one held in the same rooms at the end of last year, and fully reported on page 304 of Vol. XXIII., and in many ways it reproduced the striking features of that one, except that on this occasion the weather was propitious and the attendance satisfactory.

As the space at the disposal of the Exhibition Committee was limited, the plan adopted with so much success last year was followed in securing displays from those members who were known to possess collections strong in the particular Colonies desired. Mr. Hausburg, upon whose shoulders as Hon. Sec. of the Exhibition Committee the bulk of the work devolved, is to be congratulated upon the success achieved, as well as for his experiment of mounting by means of a combination of long narrow strips of thin cardboard and drawing pins, whereby all damage to the sheets was avoided.

Taking the exhibits altogether the standard of merit was very high; in fact, quite up to the best traditions of the Society, which is saying a great deal. Apart from the fact that no less than five Post Office Mauritius were shown - this being, by the way, the first time on record that so many have been on view in the same room - the displays of the other colonies were in many instances the best extant, to wit, Mr. C.J. Daun's Niger Coast, Lord Crawford's St Helena, and Mr. Vernon Roberts' Gambia. The Pride of Honour must, however, be awarded to Mr. Duveen for his Mauritius, which are the finest I know, after the Tapling collection.

Looking round the room I must confess what struck me more perhaps than anything else was the utter wretchedness of the issues of the De la Rue series as compared with the Perkins Bacon types. If you had taken away St Helena, Mauritius and Gambia, the remaining stamps shown, from the artistic point of view, would have been tame indeed - they are so monotonous.

In pointing out a few of the better things in the exhibits, if I have elaborated the description of some of the old colonies to the detriment of the newer ones, my reason alone is the lack of interest the latter afford when the older stamps are displayed with them side by side.

British Central Africa. British East Africa.

Mr. Eliot Levy showed his well-known collection of these colonies, which is built upon the lines of a single and pair of each unused and specimens used.

Gambia and Gold Coast.

Mr. Vernon Roberts' display of the former colony is recognised as the best known. It comprises entire sheets of everything except the 4d. and 6d., imperf., no wmk., and includes sheets of the CC and CA series shown for shades of printing, the range of his 6d. being very fine.

The Gold Coast compare unfavourably as an exhibit with Gambia; no attempt is made to show entire sheets, and wisely so, except in the case of the recent surcharges, Mr. Roberts being content with double lines from the top and bottom of the panes showing the control and plate numbers. In this latter respect his collection is very complete, including a specimen of Plate II. of the 4d. CA, and Plate I. of the 2s. CA, both unchronicled in the Society's work.

Lagos and Sierra Leone.

Baron de Worms was happy in these two exhibits. Of the first issue of the former, perf. 12½, there were blocks of four of each value, the 1d., 3d. and 1s. showing plate number.

The stamps were all unused and complete, which applies to Sierra Leone as well, where I noticed several large blocks of the 12½ perf. and one of four of the 4d. blue CA. The halfpenny on 1½ CC unused.

Mr. C. McNaughton had a fine series of the 1897 Provisionals, including a block of twenty-five of the 2½ on 2s. being a double row across the top of the sheet and half of the third row, counting from the left. The arrangement of Types was as follows : First row, all Type A; second row, 1, 3, 4 (square stop), 7, 10, Type A, 2 Type F (square stop), 5, 6 Type C, 8 Type D, 9 Type B ; third row, 1, 5 Type A, others Type D.

Madagascar

were shown by Mr. J.N. Marsden and Major Evans, apparently complete.

Mauritius.

Mr. H.J. Duveen in this exhibit provided the finest individual one in the room. Since it was shown -at the Manchester Exhibition it has received some notable additions, to wit, the two Post Office, the one penny being used on original, and the twopence unused....

Mr. W.B. Avery, although having to take second place, displayed what would otherwise have been considered the best in the room. In one respect, and a very important one, his two Post Offices, both unused, were the finest shown....

The Earl of Kintore. - Yet another Post Office, the one penny on entire and a very fine specimen with a nice clean postmark. This, I believe, was the specimen once belonging to Mr. Vernon Roberts and disposed of by him when he acquired the unique envelope containing two penny stamps....

Morocco Agencies.

The Earl of Crawford had a frame of these, including blocks of four of the London and Local prints, showing the varieties broad M and inverted V.

Niger Coast.

Mr. C.J. Daun's collection of this Colony is admittedly unrivalled, containing, amongst other good things, 1893 surcharges; Half-penny on 2d., block of six, one surcharge being vertical and the others horizontal ; a pair, one being diagonal and the other horizontal, a strip of three showing S.G. & Co.'s numbers 21 and 16; Halfpenny on 2½d., strips of three as follows: I quote the numbers from S.G. & Co.'s catalogue— 25, 24, 25; 25, 18, 25 ; 26, 24, 26; 26, 18, 26; a block of six, 18, 13, 13; 26, no surcharge, 15; 1893-4 issue, 20s. in black (No. 35) unique, 20s. in red (No. 24), one of two strips issued; 20s. in violet (No. 33), one of five issued ; 5s., pair (one sideways); 10s., a block of four. The other stamps, including surcharges, were very fully displayed.

Northern and Southern Nigeria and Sudan.

Mr. L.L.R. Hausburg, although not a specialist of any African Colonies, kindly stepped into the breach and showed these as well as they admit of, everything, including varieties and the inverted surcharges, being mounted in blocks of four.

St Helena.

The Earl of Crawford. - Possibly the handsomest stamps in the room, displayed to excellent advantage, well-arranged and carefully written up in the notes appearing in pencil on each page. Perfect in point of condition, this exhibit deservedly attracted special attention. Of the imperf. issue, a block of forty-two being a double row from the top of the sheet and the third and fourth row, with the last three stamps in each missing, all 19 mm. A vertical strip of three, the two top ones being 19 mm., and the lower stamp 16½ mm. Fourpence, a block of six. 1863, trials made by surcharging the existing blue 6d. stamp in black ink, and red ink one penny (the latter without obliterating bar). These were deemed unsatisfactory, and a change of colour ordered, printed on Crown CC paper and in lake. The 6d. blue was also surcharged Four Pence in block type, but not approved. Specimens of all these were shown, and the 6d. lake, no surcharge, which is considered now-a-days as a proof, and Lord Crawford's exhibit seems to confirm this theory, wherewithal the stamp is extremely scarce.

Amongst the short bar of 1868 the 1d. was shown imperf. (see *Philatelic Record*, vol. XXIII., p.75); 3d. ditto, with and without specimen; 4d., double surcharge, used; 1s., a vertical double row of this value, showing the double surcharges and the two bottom stamps without surcharge (see *Philatelic Record*, vol. XXIII., p.71). An unchronicled variety of double surcharge on the 3d. CA used was shown.

Mr. W. Doming Beckton sent a small display- of this colony, complete, in the catalogued varieties, unused, and some blocks of the first issue - 6d., 1d., and 4d. (six). The compound perforations, including the 1s., in blocks, unused; the 3d., short bar, imperf., and perf. 12½, double surcharge (used), unchronicled; 1864, 1s., no bar; a good range of shades of the 6d. value, all unused, in the different perforations.

Seychelles.

Mr. R. Ehrenbach mounted two frames, everything in blocks, and many partially entire sheets of the numerous surcharges.

Uganda.

Mr. E. Beveridge. - The type-written issues are very difficult, but were capably shown.

Zanzibar.

Mr. C. J. Daun.—A wonderful array of minor varieties.

Reference

- 1 Dorning Beckton W., "Exhibition of the Stamps of some of the African Colonies", *The Philatelic Record*, December 1902



Nigeria - The 1975-1982 25k Definitive, SPECIMEN

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

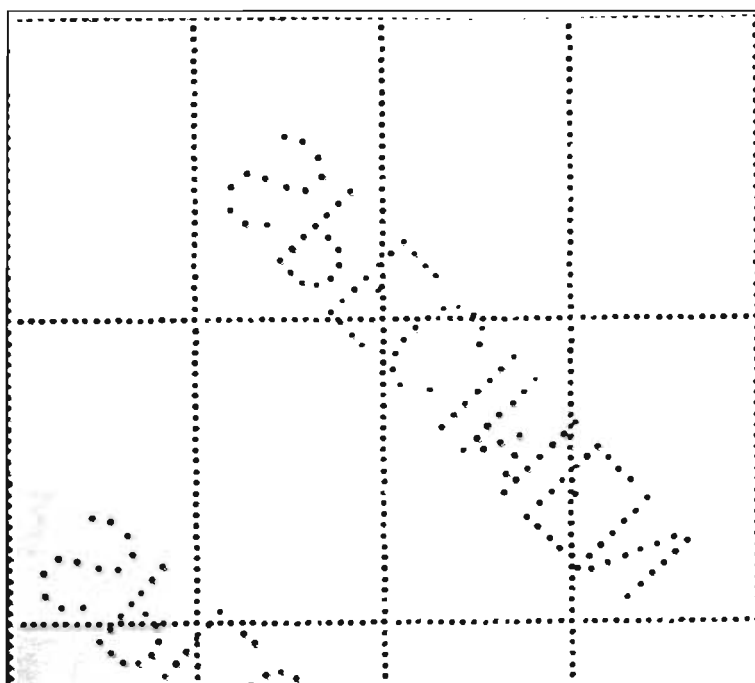
Whilst on holiday in Italy, I attended Veronafil, a stamp fair held in Verona. I was able to purchase a block of 12 of the 25k value, watermark inverted (SG 349), with the printer's imprint.

The interesting thing is that the stamps had been perforated diagonally with a large (82 x 14 mm) SPECIMEN.

Figure 1 shows this, albeit from another part of the sheet. It does not seem to be fraudulent. Could it possibly be a sample of the printer's work?

Figure 1

SPECIMEN perforation
on 25k definitive



St Helena Type 1 c.d.s. with '2' for FEBRUARY

Bernard Mabbett

On page 161 of *Cameo* 78 (Ref. 1) Robert Johnson FRPSL illustrated a receipt from George De Lacy & Son dated 1 October 1889; received at St Helena 28 October 1889 with the initials of W. Grey-Wilson, for 7 steel type date plugs. These were for the years (18) 90 to 95 plus FE for the month of February.

I have a cover (Figure 1) from Chatham, Kent addressed to W. Grey-Wilson, Colonial Secretary, dated 26 January 1887 with St Helena arrival for 12 February 1887 which shows the '2' being used for the month in the c.d.s. On my cover the '2' is shown before the day.

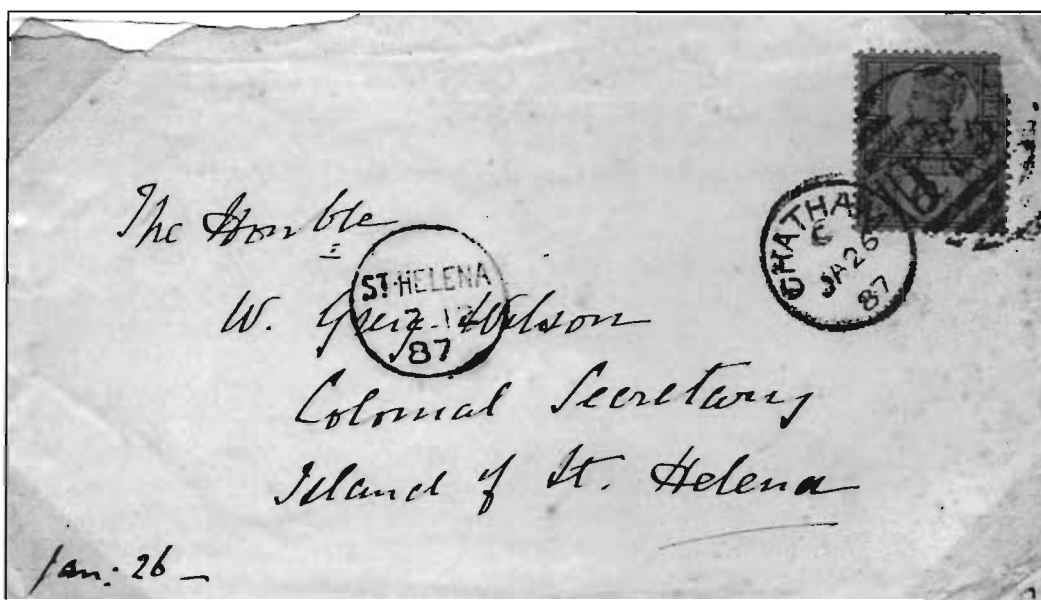


Figure 1 6d packet rated cover received St Helena 12 February 1887 - note '2' for FE

In the Lampart sale at Stanley Gibbons held on 3-5 December 1986 was a cover (Lot number 1532) illustrated on plate 49 dated 26 February 1883 to Bromley, Kent with a number '2' used for February. Obviously the date plugs 'FE' had been damaged or missing for some time as they were not replaced until October 1889 as per the document illustrated by Robert Johnson.

On the cover in the Lampart sale the '2' is shown after the day. A further cover in the Lampart sale (Lot 1504) illustrated on plate 46 is a cover to Essex dated 20 February 1888 with the '2' coming after the day. Is it coincidence that two of these covers are dated 26 February, or is it more likely that this is the date when the Mail Packet was due to leave the island?

A further twist to this story is also in the Lampart sale. Lot 1501 illustrated on plate 44 was an E.L. to Genoa dated February 12 1885 in which the month plug FE is being used. As there were always two copies of each date stamp in use, probably the 'FE' plug was only missing or broken from one of them, as we have the '2' being used from 1883 to at least 1887.

This now brings the total number of covers known with the '2' used instead of 'FE' for the month to three, two outgoing and one incoming. Unless of course you know different.

Reference

- 1 Johnson R., "More Documents from the St Helena Archives", *Cameo* 11, pp161-165, WASC October 2009



By SABENA from West Africa to UK, 1944-45

Rob May

The Air Ministry Civil Aviation Intelligence Summary (CAIS) for the week ending 20 September 1944 (Ref. 1) says:

On 17th September 1944 a Lockheed Lodestar landplane (OO-CAV) owned by the Belgian air transport company SABENA arrived in the UK on completion of an experimental flight over the following route:-

*Leopoldville – Libreville – Lagos – Niamey – Gao – Aoulef –
Casablanca – Lisbon – Bristol (Whitchurch)*

This flight marks the inauguration of a regular service over the above route, the frequency of which will be once monthly. The service will be extended later to Brussels. There has not been a direct service between the Belgian Congo and Europe since June 1940.

The CAIS report for 18 October 1944 (ibid.) reported that the service had increased to fortnightly.

The CAIS report for 20 December 1944 (ibid.) reported that the service had reverted to monthly, but was now scheduled to fly direct between Lagos and Gao, then terminating in the UK at Hurn (Bournemouth) instead of Whitchurch. Libreville had become an optional stop.

I have now found another file at the National Archives that is dedicated to the development and use of this route (Ref. 2). It starts with a request from M. Pellier, the MD of SABENA, in September 1943, then a formal application in November 1943 to the Air Ministry in London to ask for agreement to plan an airmail route by SABENA from Belgian Congo to the UK. The original route proposed was Leopoldville – Pointe Noire – Libreville – Lagos – Gao – Reggan – Marrakech – Casablanca – Lisbon – UK, for initially one round trip per fortnight using a Lockheed Lodestar, increasing to weekly later.

There was a great deal of sympathy and respect for SABENA at the Air Ministry as a result of their contribution to wartime aviation throughout Africa. The Air Ministry wanted to ensure SABENA would not remove Lodestar capacity from the routes across Africa in order to operate this service but on 28 January 1944 they agreed to this proposal in principle subject to a list of conditions that were accepted by the Belgians on 2 March 1944.

SABENA had been given preference to buy Lockheed Lodestars from the USA because of the elderly aircraft they were using in the Allied cause in Africa. South African Airways (SAA) were very sensitive about this, and there are letters of complaint from them on file when they were unable to buy any Lodestars. In mid 1944 SABENA lodged an order for six DC3s from the USA but the Air Ministry cut the order back to three, ostensibly 'due to non-availability' but actually so that SAA could order three at the same time.

It was to be left to SABENA to negotiate overflying and landing rights with the French and Portuguese and to settle terms for ground support with BOAC. BOAC were initially obstructive, wanting SABENA to supply their plane and crews to operate this route under contract to BOAC. They were firmly put in their box by a memo telling them that the Minister considered it politically expedient that this should be developed by SABENA and M. Pellier was then able to settle a service contract with BOAC.

A letter from SABENA dated 11 May 1944 to GOC Nigeria explained that the Portuguese authorities had not yet agreed terms for the service to fly via Lisbon. It also discussed air mail capacity, estimated at 80kg per month. In order to avoid delaying the aircraft the Belgians requested "that mails which had already been censored in the Belgian Congo shall not be censored again at Lagos, except in the case of mails destined for the French and Portuguese colonies." This request was agreed on 7 June 1944.



Figure 1

First flight northbound. Postmarked Leopoldville 11 September 1944, addressed to Brussels, held in London, then back-stamped on arrival in Brussels 26 February 1945

(illustrated by courtesy of John Wilson)

The commencement of the service caught the British Authorities by surprise. A letter dated 11 September 1944 from SABENA confirmed a phone conversation to the effect that the Lodestar OO-CAW would leave Leopoldville on 13 September, arriving at Whitchurch on 16th. Frantic exchanges of telegrams ensued so as to describe the aircraft accurately to the UK air defences and air traffic control!

Figure 1 shows that there was some advance notice given to the local population at Leopoldville; enough for hand-written first flight covers to be prepared for 'Avion Special'. A telegram from POSTGEN LEOPOLDVILLE dated 12 September asked the UK GPO to "despatch surcharged airmail for the Belgian Congo by the return flight" and the GPO agreed.

I think I can infer that the northbound flight will have carried mail but, more significantly, this would appear to provide the first official southbound civilian air mail route from the UK to the west coast of Africa since June 1940. As this first flight had been notified at short notice it must be doubtful how much surcharged air mail the GPO would have had to hand when the return flight left the UK on 25 September.

A cipher dated 9 October from Leopoldville to Accra advised that the next services would leave Leopoldville on 12 October, 26 October and 9 November, adding a second Lodestar aircraft OO-CAO on the route. The British had secured a commitment to be allowed to load up to 350kg onto all the flights on this route, at the discretion of the Priorities Board in London, southbound and the Priorities Board, Nigeria northbound.

The complete text of a letter dated 27 October 1944 from P. Stouffs, special representative for SABENA, and the Air Ministry gives some insight into BOAC and SABENA operations at that time:

Dear Captain Herbertson,

ENGLAND- BELGIAN CONGO SERVICE

Confirming the conversation I had with you and Mr. Jones recently I would mention that it is easier now to obtain bookings on our Leopoldville Capetown service than it was two or three months ago.

In pointing out this fact to you I want to emphasise our desire to see our England-Leopoldville line being used as far as possible by passengers due to the Belgian Congo, Rhodesia and South Africa.

Passengers and freight to Lagos only are making the plane flying nearly empty from Lagos to Leopoldville which in war time sounds not very good.

I have taken notice that Mr. Jones was writing to British Airways to tell us that you wanted one of the two SABENA chartered services to be cancelled by the end this month and that the second one would have to be cancelled probably at the beginning of next year. As some of our planes might then lie idle in Leopoldville I would appreciate very much if you could find out with British Airways whether any other service, on the same chartered basis, starting from Leopoldville would interest you. I would suggest Leopoldville - Capetown as we could give a very good connection with our England - Congo line and as I understand from various sources that there are many passengers wanting to fly from and to South Africa and Rhodesia.

I shall be grateful for your comments in this connection.

*Yours sincerely
P. Stouffs
Special Representative*

There is no certain date for the termination of the BOAC trans-Africa contracts on this file, but a letter dated 3 November 1944 from Mr. Jones to J. Brancker at BOAC includes:

I think you would agree that, now that we have got rid of this expensive charter arrangement, we would not wish to revive it in another direction.



Figure 2

Cover from Basankusa (date illegible), via Coquilhatville 9 July 1945, Leopoldville 12 July 1945, to Switzerland 'par avion' (half hidden under the Congo Belge sealing tape) rated 12Fr. This cover would have been offloaded at Lisbon, thence by air to Switzerland.

Lisbon was one of the stops on this SABENA route to the UK. The fact that this cover was opened and censored in both Belgian Congo and Nigeria (boxed PP/27) is not inconsistent with the request from SABENA not to delay mails that had already been censored in the Belgian Congo, because this letter's destination is not the UK

Figure 2 and the Front Cover illustration show northbound air mails from Belgian Congo from my own collection which are likely to have been carried on these flights to Lisbon and to the UK during the first half of 1945. I would like to find similar mails sent from and to Nigeria!

SABENA found a use for some sidelined aircraft by chartering them to oil companies and other multi-national companies to return expatriate workers to the UK and Europe. The Air Ministry got a little irritated by the number of special flight requests during the first half of 1945, but approved them all.

The file of specific correspondence extends past the end date of the CAIS reports and therefore extends my knowledge of the re-establishment of air routes as the war ended. A cipher message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the resident Minister, Achimota, repeated to the Governor of Nigeria on 4 May 1945, notified an increase of the frequency of flights to fortnightly on the Leopoldville - UK route. It also lodged the Belgian request for a new route between Leopoldville and Algiers via Lagos, Gao and Aoulef.

It quickly became clear that this route was intended to reach Brussels. Baron Beyens of the Belgian Embassy left a memorandum with the Foreign Office on 6 July requesting permission for the extension to Brussels of the new Sabena service from Leopoldville to Algiers, also to increase the frequency of those flights to twice weekly now and to four times a week from 1 September 1945. Baron Beyens explained that:

His Government had the serious problem on their hands of repatriating 2200 officials from the Congo most of whom had had no leave since before the war and were suffering from the ill-effect of uninterrupted residence in a tropical climate.

At the same time the Belgians requested permission to extend the UK service from Hurn to Brussels but a file note dated 23.7.45 reads:

Further to our loose minute dated 18.7.45 [which is not in this file] we have now learned that SABENA do not propose to carry out their earlier proposal to make regular flights between Hurn and Brussels. The direct service from West Africa to Belgium via Algiers and Marseille opened on 21.7.45. With the exception of a flight Hurn - Brussels today and another on 3rd August no more operations on this stage will be carried out. The need for detailed operating advice has thus lapsed.

A telegram to S of S Colonies from Resident Minister Achimota dated 1 August 1945 reads:

SABENA advises Congo - United Kingdom fortnightly air services will cease after that leaving Leopoldville 3rd August. Please inform Air Ministry.

C.O.2 minuted a comment on 4 August:

The loss of three seats reserved in each direction on this service will not embarrass the Priorities Board in London. The Priorities Board West Africa will, of course, regret the loss of three seats in the inward direction as they are using them for leave personnel to this country.

There is no mention of loss of mail capacity.

The file ends with a situation report from the Belgian Congo dated 30 June 1946, extracts from which say:

The first American Lockheed Constellation arrived on April 24th and on May 29th a bi-weekly service to and from New York via Shannon was inaugurated by PAA.

SABENA maintains a service of four planes weekly between the Congo and Belgium and vice versa. DC4 machines are used.

On June 29th a SABENA plane flew, for the first time since the war, via Kano and Tripoli, and thence to Belgium [a shorter route than via Algiers but one that had been blocked by the Air Ministry due to military use of Tripoli airport].

SABENA has now inaugurated a weekly service to and from Johannesburg. This replaces the old fortnightly service.

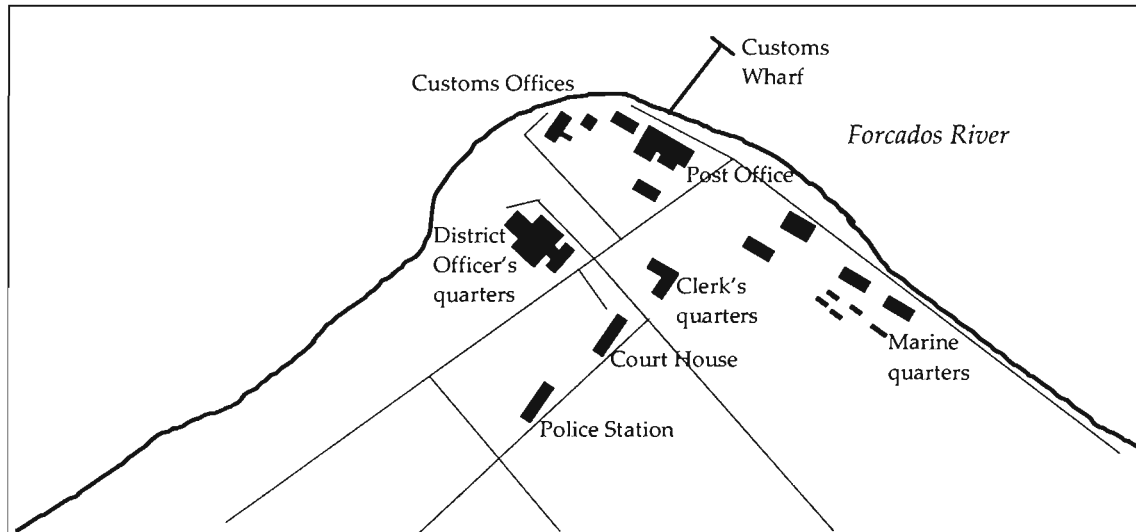
References

- 1 UK National Archives AIR 20/6125
- 2 UK National Archives AVIA 2/2468

Theft from the Forcados Post Office, 1914

Dr. Simon Heap

Native Postmaster Samuel M. Bowen was arrested at Forcados Post Office in Southern Nigeria on 6 May 1914, convicted on a charge of embezzling the large amount of £157 5s 1d. He received a sentence of two years' imprisonment on 21 July. Of the money stolen, only £60 15s 0d was recovered from Bowen's house. The rest was written off as irrecoverable, while his appointment in colonial service terminated on the date of the theft (Ref. 1).



Forcados Post Office

Source: Forcados, Land and Survey Department, November 1935, reprinted 1950
(1 inch = 400 ft.)

Bowen was alleged to have taken the money out of the post office's safe on the night of Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 6th May. This cash was the proceeds of sales of postal orders sold on 5 May by the Postal Order Clerk Theophilus J.J. George and placed in the safe by him before leaving the Post Office at the close of business.

In giving his evidence to the police, George said he thought he had locked the safe, but was not sure. His evidence also revealed he had previously been in possession of a duplicate key for this safe for some time - contrary to colonial rules, or General Orders - but he had lost this key three days prior to the loss of the money. He did not report the loss of this key to anyone, fearing he would be fined £5, as laid down by General Orders.

Judge Walter Huggard with the assistance of five Assessors (two Europeans, two native foreigners and one native chief) tried Bowen's case. In expressing their unanimous opinion that Bowen was guilty of the charge of embezzlement, the Assessors brought in an additional recommendation to the colonial government that, 'witness George was guilty of gross negligence in connection with this matter and that we recommend that fines for the loss of keys should be abolished' (Ref. 2).

On receiving the judgment, Nigeria's Postmaster-General, James Somerville, wrote to senior colleagues, 'I agree with the first part and ask you to consider the second part' (Ref. 3).

The details of the crime are reconstructed from a report by Police Commissioner Harold Rawles of 17 May 1914 (Ref. 4).

On Wednesday 6 May 1914, Forcados District Officer James Davidson reported to local Inspector of Police Dadson that over £157 was missing from the post office's safe. Dadson

immediately procured search warrants and proceeded to search the houses of the Post Office employees. When on Bowen's premises, Dadson's suspicions were aroused by the behaviour of a Jekri woman called Marku, a daughter of Chief Cheke of Ugbo-Odede, a village adjoining Warri, and who had been living with Bowen for about three years.

While Dadson searched the house she persisted on remaining in or near the latrine. So Dadson ordered Corporal Joseph Agu to pull it down. Marku refused to leave and while standing on the spot where the pan had been was overheard to say in local Jekri language to Agu, 'You are my countryman, do not search where I am standing and when it is over I will satisfy you (Ref. 5).

Inspector Dadson who was standing outside the latrine overheard this offer of sexual favours. He at once went in and pulled her out and got the Corporal to dig up the spot where she had been standing. A bag containing £60 15s was found. The money was in one bag placed inside another bag. Bowen and Marku were then arrested.

Prior to the search, Bowen accused Theophilus George, who is in charge of the safe from which the money was missing, of the theft. When interrogated, George stated that he had two keys to his safe, but that he had lost one about a fortnight previously and been afraid to report it. However, the key to open the post office was always kept by Bowen, and on the morning of the report of the loss all the locks were found intact. Nonetheless, the case highlighted to the colonial authorities the fact that the owners of duplicate keys to safes were not clearly identifiable. The question of where the duplicate keys of all the safes in the Post and Telegraphs Department was urgently enquired into (Ref. 6).

A few days later on Saturday 9 May, Marku sent a message from her police cell via Corporal Agu to Inspector Dadson, saying she wished to see him and her brother, Ometagu. Dadson went at once with the brother and she made a statement to the effect that Bowen had asked her to take a walk with him to the post office on the night of 5 May. Bowen opened a safe and took out two bags of money. He then opened a second safe and put in the contents of one bag. He then put the other bag containing money into the emptied bag, tied it up and gave it to Marku to carry. Bowen then locked the safes and left the post office. On their way home, Bowen told her that he had been short in his accounts owing to debts occurred at Warri; he had been paying these debts with Government money. He went on to tell her that the two bags of cash he had just taken from the safe were his own private money withdrawn from the Bank that morning, that he had now straightened his accounts and the balance she was now carrying was his own. When they got to their house Bowen took the money from her and buried it under the ground in the latrine.

Marku then repeated her side of the story on oath and the charge against her was withdrawn. To help further, she even went back to the post office with District Officer Davidson and went through the whole scene again with him.

The authorities seized all of Bowen's correspondence, which proved he was heavily in debt. When investigated further, it transpired that Bowen even had a previous conviction against him for tampering with postal matters.

On reviewing the case, Postmaster-General Somerville concluded, 'I am inclined to think that the money found by the police is the whole amount actually taken away on the night in question. The balance of the missing money having gone previously in the discharge of his debts' (Ref. 7).

References

All references from National Archives, Ibadan (NAI), Chief Secretary's Office (CSO) 19/2/N.1850/1914

- 1 James Somerville, Postmaster-General, Nigeria, to Walter Evans, Acting Central Secretary, Nigeria, 1 September 1914
- 2 Walter Huggard, Acting Puisne Judge, Central Province, Warri, to Evans, 24 August 1914
- 3 Somerville to Evans, 1 September 1914
- 4 *Report* by Harold Rawles, Commissioner of Police, 'C' Division, Warri, 17 May 1914
- 5 *Report* by Rawles, 17 May 1914
- 6 Howard Woolley, Deputy Postmaster-General, Nigeria, to Evans, 22 May 1914
- 7 Somerville to Evans, 1 September 1914

Robert F. Peel, Governor of St Helena 1920 - 1924

Bernard Mabbett

On eBay several months ago I was lucky enough to purchase three Lots concerning Lt. Colonel Robert Francis Peel CMG during his time as Governor and Commander in Chief of St Helena. Most of the items relate to his untimely death from peritonitis due to a burst appendix.

Robert Francis Peel was born 30 April 1874, and in 1898 he enlisted in the Coldstream Guards, serving in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War (1899 - 1902). On 28 November 1903 he married Alice Maude Meyrick, and they had two children.

In 1909 he retired from the army and stood for Parliament, where he was elected as Conservative MP for Woodbridge, Suffolk. During the First World War he was Lt. Colonel for the 4th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, and served in France. He resigned as MP in 1920 to become Governor of St. Helena.

The first item (Fig. 1) is an envelope from the French Consul of St. Helena, Georges Colin, undated, but with enclosure of 7 May 1921 (Fig.2) struck with the very rare French Consular cachet (Fig. 3, Note 1).

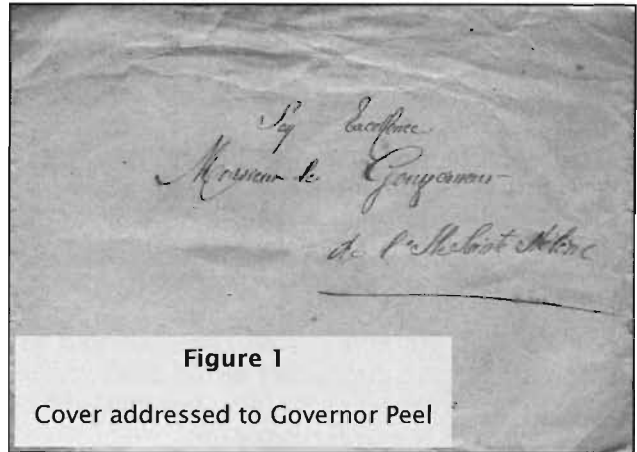


Figure 1
Cover addressed to Governor Peel

Je vous prie de vouloir bien être mon interprète auprès de Madame Peel pour lui demander de recevoir les palmiers que j'ai préparés et de les présenter à Madame.

Sur proposition des principaux du Grand Échiquier qui ont voulu l'honneur de distribuer à des soldats, les palmiers de la guerre qu'il avait recueillis par les restes de son toit, j'ai préparé je dois de remettre au roi les palmiers, (Lundi 9 Mai, au soir après le repas en terre du Grand Échiquier) au représentant de l'État Major, Monsieur Gustave Béraud, la partie supérieure de quelques uns des palmiers qui ornent le salon de l'Empereur, le jour de l'arrivée et le soir.

Les palmiers seront remis au député par "l'État Major" le seul principal du monde représenté à Sainte-Hélène le jour de l'arrivée au Palais Municipal, président de l'échiquier, pour le compte de soldats inconnus français, pour le compte de soldats inconnus anglais, l'aug. Béraud à Paris.

Une de ces palmiers sera remis à vous par l'État Major le Gouverneur Peel qui sera malgré les difficultés de la situation occupée une importante manifestation à la tombe et à l'Échiquier (Salon de l'Empereur) pour les Commémorations et l'anniversaire de la mort du Grand Échiquier.

Les autres palmiers seront conservés en dépôt dans le salon, ainsi que la partie supérieure des palmiers à l'Échiquier.

Je vous prie, Monsieur le Gouverneur de vouloir bien être mon interprète auprès de Madame Peel pour lui demander de recevoir les palmiers que j'ai préparés et de les présenter à Madame.

à Monsieur Gustave Béraud

Yeuillez agréer, Monsieur le Gouverneur, l'assurance de ma haute considération dévouée.

St. Sainte-Hélène le 7. Mai 1921.

Edmi. Goussier

Figure 2 The letter, in French, showing the French Consular Cachet

The letter concerns the distribution of medal ribbons on the Centenary of the death of Napoleon. The letter, in French, has been loosely translated as follows:

French Consulate on the Isle of St Helena to His Excellency Governor Peel of St Helena.

In order to perpetuate the principles of the Great Napoleon, who had the habit of distributing to his soldiers the battle honours they had earned for his victories, which he alone would prepare.

I have decided that in your presence (Monday 9 May), one century after the burial of the Glorious Soldier, to give to the representative of The Illustration, Mr. Gaston Cherau, the upper part (ribbons?) of several of the honours which originated from the Emperor's Lodge, on the day of the centenary of his death.

These honours would then be awarded by Illustration - the only newspaper in the world represented in St Helena on the day of the centenary - to:

- 1 to Marshal Foch, Centenary President*
- 1 to the Centenary Committee*
- 1 for the tomb of unknown French soldiers*
- 1 for the tomb of unknown English soldiers*
- 1 for the war injured in Paris*

One of the honours will be awarded to you Your Excellency Governor Peel who, in spite of the difficulties of the situation in organising an impressive display at the Old House (Emperor's Lodge), has thought of this to commemorate the centenary of the death of the Great Emperor.

The other honours will be preserved in the Lodge, as well as the lower portion of the above mentioned honours.

I would ask you, as Governor, to please be my messenger to Mrs. Peel to ask her to receive these honours that I will have prepared and to give them to Mr. Gaston Cherau.

*Please accept my sincere thanks
Isle of St Helena 7 May 1921
Colin Georges*

The other two eBay Lots contained three envelopes and letters concerning Peel's death on 10 August 1924 together with his death certificate. The letters include one from Dr. Arnold confirming Colonel Peel's death; a long letter from A. Hands, Clerk to the Executive Council; another letter to Mrs. Peel from Dr. J.J. Arnold. Two very long letters from Mr. Lane at Francis Plain House to Mrs. Peel dated 11 May and 14 August 1925. A letter from the Bishop of St Helena to Mrs. Peel dated 8 August 1925..A letter from Sir Charles Henry Harper dated 14 August to Mrs. Peel enclosing the card from the wreath laid on Governor Peel's grave by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) on his visit to St Helena.

The final items were an envelope from Mrs. Bovell to Mrs. Peel containing photographs of Governor Peel's grave, together with cards from the wreaths laid by the teachers and children of the Government Country School. Also a letter from Downing Street dated 9 September to Mrs. Peel informing her of the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Colony and that he laid wreaths on the graves of both her late husband and Dr. Arnold.

Note

- 1 The French Consular cachet on this letter (Fig. 3) is very rare and until this letter came to light was only known used on mail between 1899 and 1901

Figure 3 Consular cachet



Tristan da Cunha Type II Postmark, 1990 Format

Richard Moss

In December 2006 I had the opportunity to examine a large commercial accumulation from Tristan da Cunha. One thing which stood out was that the constant format of the Type II postmark from 1963 to 1989 changed in 1990. Up to that point the abbreviated year was always preceded by an apostrophe. In 1990 the apostrophe was always missing and there were two new formats.



Original, Apostrophe 8



Revised, Gap 9 Gap 0



Revised, Gap 9 Comma 0

Nothing seemed to have been written about this so I concluded that on the first working day of 1990 the Post Office probably discovered that the handstamps were configured for the 60s, 70s and 80s but not the 90s! I also speculated that they broke up a handstamp and reversed the 6. This did not explain the two formats. The assumption was that a second handstamp was also adjusted later. but this time with the inverted apostrophe included as well. However, this could not be proved at that time.

The chance to solve this problem came at the end of 2011 when I visited Tristan and made advance arrangements to investigate this postmark whilst on the island.

My expected host sadly had to go to South Africa at short notice but she arranged for my wife and I to stay with her sister, Lillie Swain, who worked at the Post Office. This was a real stroke of luck as Lillie had not only worked in the Post Office since before 1990 but it turned out that she was made responsible for sorting out the 1990 cancellation problem and made the necessary alterations.

My speculation was right but the execution of the change was not as expected. Two hand stamps were stripped down. The decade bands were reversed and re-inserted, thus creating the 9 from the inverted 6. The problem of the 'comma' and 'gap' versions was still unsolved.

Before my arrival the Post Office staff found the actual hand stamps in the archives and showed them to me. When these hand stamps were originally constructed the decade band had two 6s, two 7s and two 8s, each preceded by an apostrophe, but no 9s. This duplication was presumably to prolong wear. One apostrophe had broken off, presumably in the reversal procedure, thus creating the 'gap' version.

The final proof for the investigation was to obtain a specimen strike of the 70s from one of the revised hand stamp. This was done for me and the result is absolute proof of the reversal of the decade band, as you will see below!



Inverted 7
on 'Specimen Strike'

The project was now complete and I would suggest that the 1990 cancellation should be recognised as Type IIa, with two settings. I have seen no use of the 'comma setting' before the 10 July so would call that 'Setting 2' and the 'gap setting' 'Setting 1'. All strikes illustrated are from specimens done for me on card in 2011. Cancelled mail on the 1989 & 1990 mail may or may not exist for these dates. The '1971' strike certainly does NOT exist on mail.

Thanks are due to Iris Green & Lillie Swain at Tristan Post Office for all the trouble taken by them to assist me. Without their help this investigation would have failed.



Cameroun - Late Use of the Sterling-Revalued Stamps

Marty Bratzel

Bob Maddocks has discussed the sterling-revalued stamps issued for use in West Cameroon (Ref. 1). To summarise, the stamps were placed on sale on 1 October 1961 - the date of reunification - and were the only postage stamps available in West Cameroon through April 1962 (Ref. 2). Stamps in CFA francs were placed on sale at Victoria on 1 May 1962, but whether this was a uniform official release date throughout West Cameroon has not been determined. In any event, after this date, when up-country post offices and postal agencies ordered or received stock, CFA stamps were supplied.

Sterling stamps remained valid for postal and fiscal use until the end of May 1962. Thereafter, they were withdrawn. However, the period of exchange was extended until 30 June 1962, when sterling currency ceased to be legal tender.

In light of the foregoing, the air mail cover in Figure 1, addressed to England, requires explanation. The cover bears three sterling-revalued stamps and is postmarked Ndian 10 September 1962, more than three months after the stamps were to have been withdrawn and more than two months after sterling currency ceased to be legal tender. The total sterling value of the stamps is 1/1½d. The underlying value of the basic stamps is 45 CFA francs. There are no stamps or postmarks on the back of the cover.

Before reunification, the Ndian postal agency had been attached to the Calabar, Nigeria post office and, after 1 October 1961, to the Kumba post office. The Cameroun postal authorities in Yaoundé had apparently overlooked Ndian and not supplied a new datestamp, as had been done for post offices and other postal agencies in West Cameroon. A rubber handstamp was used instead (Figure 1). The date of its introduction has not been established, but is recorded between 25 June 1962 and 18 March 1964. The next recorded postmark is a skeleton dated 17 JU 1967.

The Cameroun postal authorities apparently provided sterling-revalued stamps to Ndian, date unknown, but did they neglect to provide CFA stamps when the sterling-revalued stamps were withdrawn? Or, was the volume of mail at Ndian - a rather remote location - so small that the postal agent had had no need to requisition additional stamps during this time? Or, did the postal agent have CFA stamps but was using up his supply of sterling stamps first? Or is there another explanation?

Readers' insights are welcome, including comments about the postage paid - either in sterling or CFA currency. Photocopies or scans of other covers from this time period are particularly welcome

References

- 1 Maddocks R.J., "Southern Cameroons in Postal Transition", *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, January 2002, pp80-85
- 2 A set of three stamps revalued in sterling currency was released on 1 January 1962, to commemorate reunification, but the stamps and their CFA counterparts for use in East Cameroon were quickly withdrawn

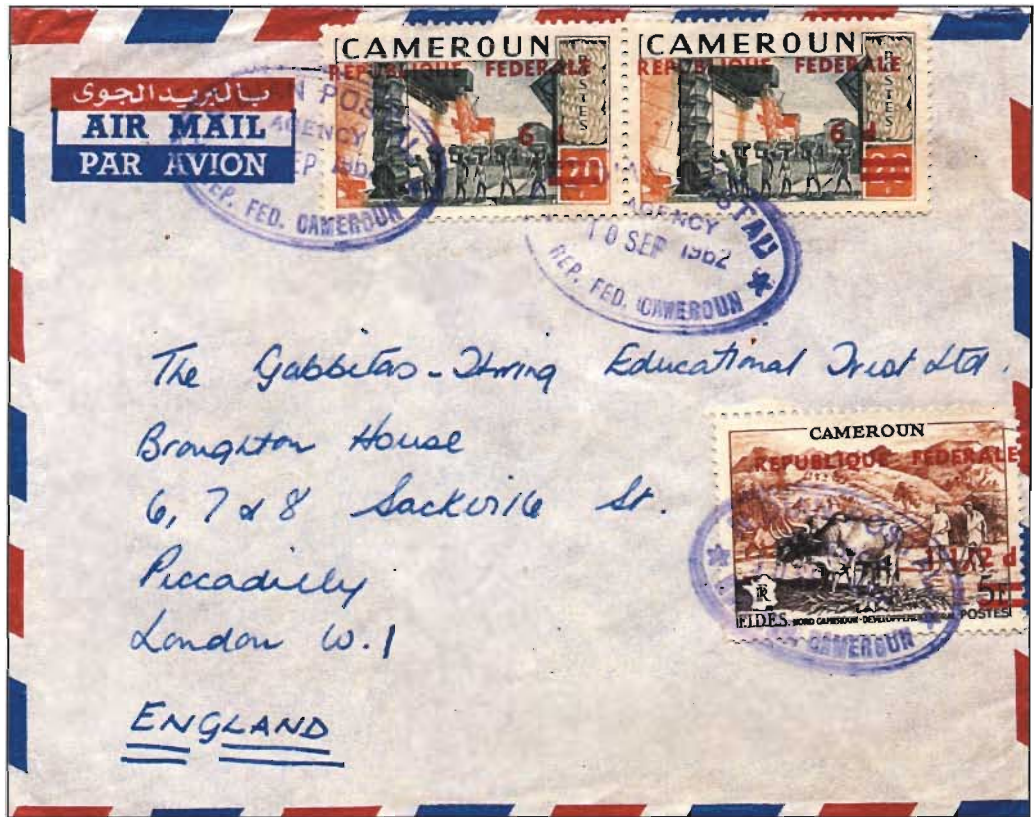


Figure 1
Cover posted
at Ndian
10 September 1962



Small '46' in c.d.s. on St Helena Military Mail Cover

Bernard Mabbett

The illustrated cover (Figure 1) is franked at the Colonial 1½d rate and addressed to Lieut-Colonel F.E. Gilpin Royal Artillery at H.Q. St Helena.



Figure 1

Chester to St Helena,
with small '46' in c.d.s.

continued on page 170

Kamerun - 'Gruss Aus Victoria' Postcards

Bob Maddocks

Illustrated from my collection are three quite pleasing greetings cards (Figures 1-3) featuring Victoria, Kamerun and are probably the earliest known produced in colour under that caption. To these, thought likely to complete the series, is added the photocopy of a fourth (Figure 4) by kind courtesy of Wolfgang Herterich in Germany following my correspondence with him on this topic.

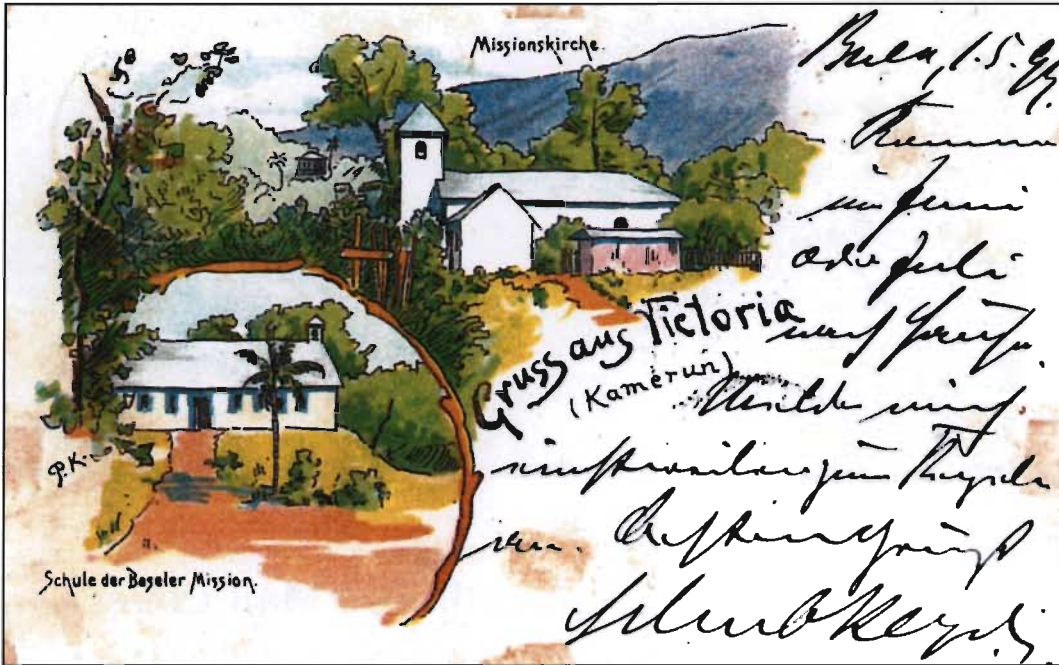


Figure 1
Basel Mission Church and School, and District Officer's House

The first three have painted vignettes of some of the principal pre-WWI buildings in Victoria whilst the last is a fine coastal view of Mount Cameroon, a volcanic massif rising to 13,350ft. The artist is known only by his initials thereon as 'P.K.'; he is not known to have produced similar cards for any other Kamerun towns or villages, according to Wolfgang. The principal artists, who painted in and produced in quantity general view cards for the colony, were Hellgreve and Vollbehr - though none specifically entitled 'Gruss Aus Victoria'.

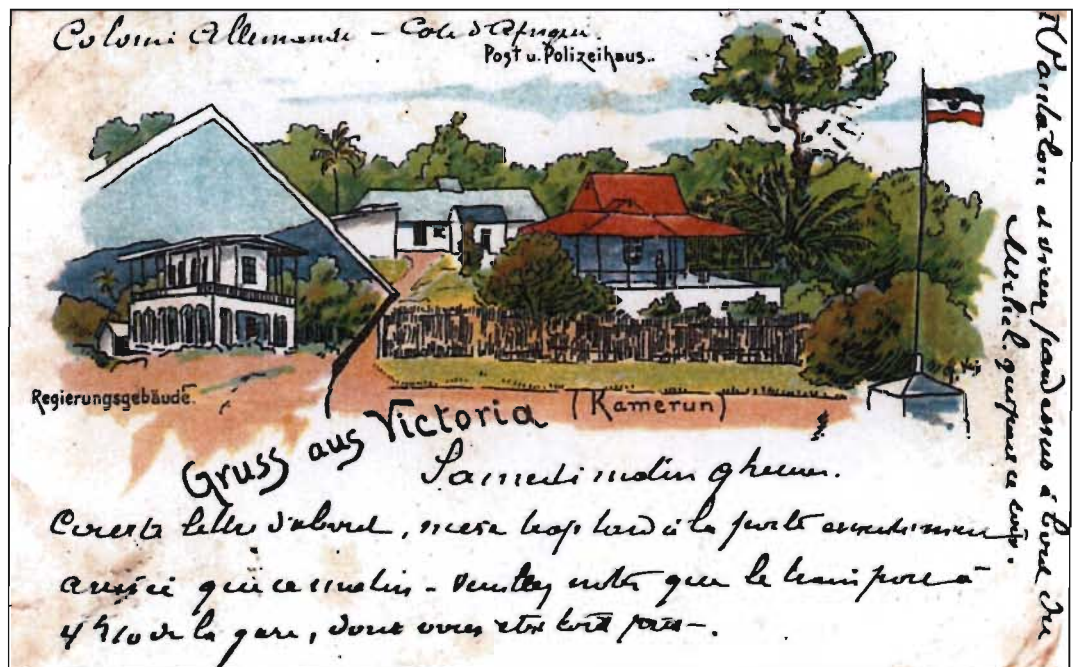


Figure 2
Post Office, Police Station and District Office

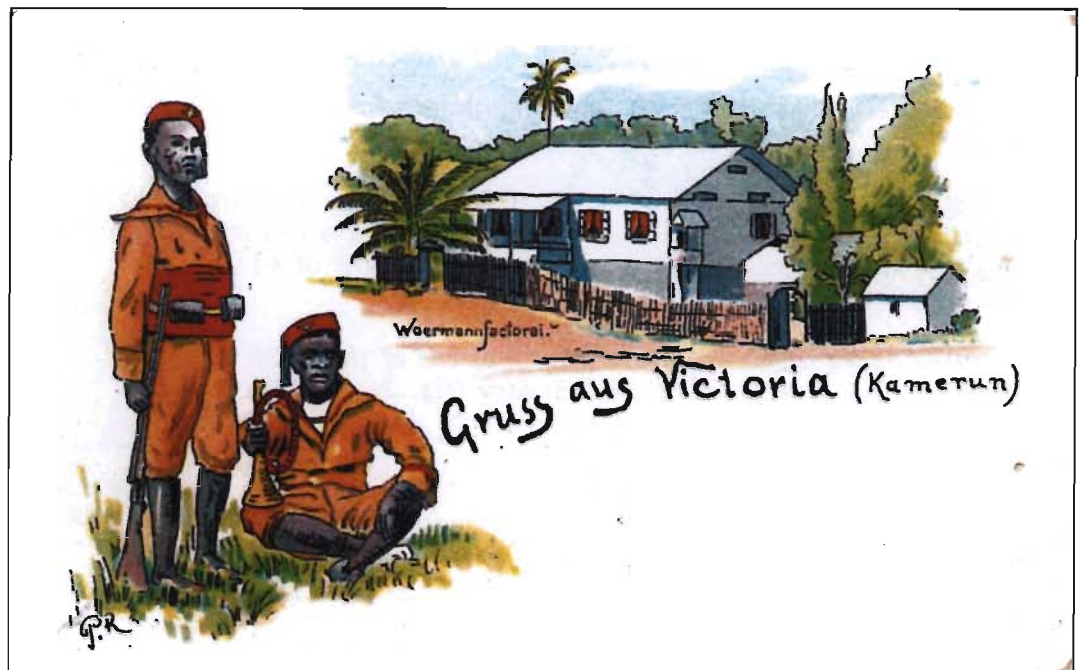


Figure 3
 Woermann
 Factory and
 Native troops

The 'P.K.' cards have no imprints as to date and name of publisher but they were probably printed in Germany. The address side is merely headed 'Postkarte -Weltpostverein/Carte postale - Union postale universelle'. The earliest known usage is that shown in Fig. 1. This was written at Buea, datelined 1.5.99, by a Philipp Schubkegel, a Secretary at the Court of Justice, Buea and was posted at Victoria on 3.5.99. My other cards, and also Wolfgang's, were mailed at Victoria in February 1900 as well, apart from one which was sent to France from Hamburg on some illegible date.

Victoria/Viktoria (the spelling was interchangeable) became part of Kamerun on 28 March 1887 when the British ceded their protective interests, in what was basically a London Baptist Mission settlement to Germany. The first post office was opened there (Viktoria) by the Germans on 12.12.1888; it is shown as the red-roofed building in Fig. 2 but, as with other of the structures illustrated, artistic licence shows it in an arboreal setting instead of a waterfront one as the site was in the 1950s known to this writer.

An oddity! - in Fig. 4 'Gruss Aus Victoria' had become 'Gruss Von Victoria'!

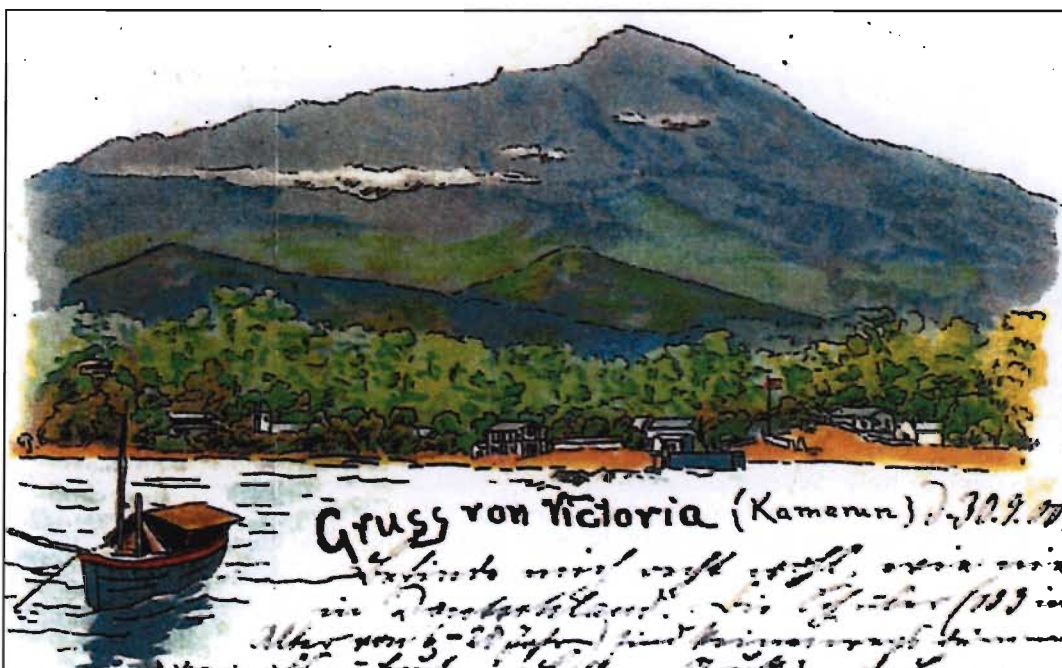


Figure 4
 Mount
 Cameroon from
 the sea.
 Basel Mission
 Church and the
 District Office
 can be
 discerned on
 the shoreline,
 left and centre

continued from page 167

It is dated 21 May 1946 with a slogan roller cancel of Chester, and arrived on the Island 17 July 1946.

Note the re-use address label, a wartime economy measure, and the small '46' with a serif font for the year slug in the c.d.s. This was in use for a few months during the middle of 1946 having first been reported by Roger West on a cover of 11 March 1946 (Ref. 1).

Barry Burns adds: The earliest date of use of the small seriffed 46 I have recorded is 19 February (Fig. 2), and the latest is 10 August. I would be pleased to hear of any examples used outside these dates please.



Figure 2
FE 19 46 c.d.s.

Reference

- 1 West Roger B., "Circular Date Stamp with Serif figures", *St Helena Supplement No. 4*, p12, WASC 1985



My Favourite - a 1902 St Helena Cover

Dominic Savastano

Dominic Savastano, of Spink Auctioneers, wrote in the company's Autumn 2012 edition of Insider, an article listing his top ten stamps. At number 10 (actually his favourite!) was this 1902 St Helena cover, and I let Dominic explain why.... - Ed.



10. St Helena cover to Italy: Several decades ago I formed a good collection of the stamps of St Helena; there was no particular reason why I decided to collect stamps from St Helena but I was rather taken by the design of the 1922-37 'Badge' issue. Also the three varieties which appear on most values of this issue were not at the time listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue so that the specialist collector could occasionally pick up a bargain from less well informed dealers.

I sold my collection many years ago when I got married, reasoning that a house is a much easier thing to live in than a stamp album, however my affection for the stamps of St Helena has continued. A few years ago, I had the good fortune to go to South Africa to attend a stamp exhibition there, and happened to spy a display of Boer War material. The exhibit explained that, rather like in the later Spanish Civil War, there were various Foreign Legions fighting against the British. Irish, Danish, Swedish, Russian and to my great surprise Italian Legions were all represented. This was interesting and the connection being that St. Helena was used as an internment camp for many Boer Prisoners of War.

On my return to London there was a sizable pile of auction catalogues from various companies on my desk, including one from a firm in the Midlands, and in it was a 1902 cover from St Helena to Naples (from where my family name originates) addressed to Professor L. Savastano! I had to have that and I gave my bid to Mrs. Mary Weeks, the famous, recently retired and much missed auction agent, and she secured the lot for me. She must have looked at it and realised its significance to me because she refused to charge me a penny commission for getting me the lot. What a lovely lady!

It is so nice for me to own at least one item that I can show to my family, who have little interest in stamps, and always get an interested reaction.

Editor's note: Following the declaration of peace on 31 May 1902, the Boer Prisoners were repatriated to their homelands with the first group leaving the island aboard SS Canada on 26 June. Dominic's cover would therefore be posted (13 June) after the censorship of mail had finished. The rate of 7d is made up by a double rate letter (2½d x 2) to a foreign destination plus 2d registration - Barry.



The Last Post from Fort Stuart, Old Calabar, 23 Nov. 1895

Bob Maddocks

Fort Stuart per se (Fig. 1, Ref. 1) is not to be found listed in any Nigerian associated Post Office Gazetteer. However, far from being a military establishment, as the name suggests, it was a residence cum commercial building which had come to house the first Post Office at Old Calabar. This was in 1892 when the Administration of the newly created political entity of the Niger Coast Protectorate inaugurated its postal Department.

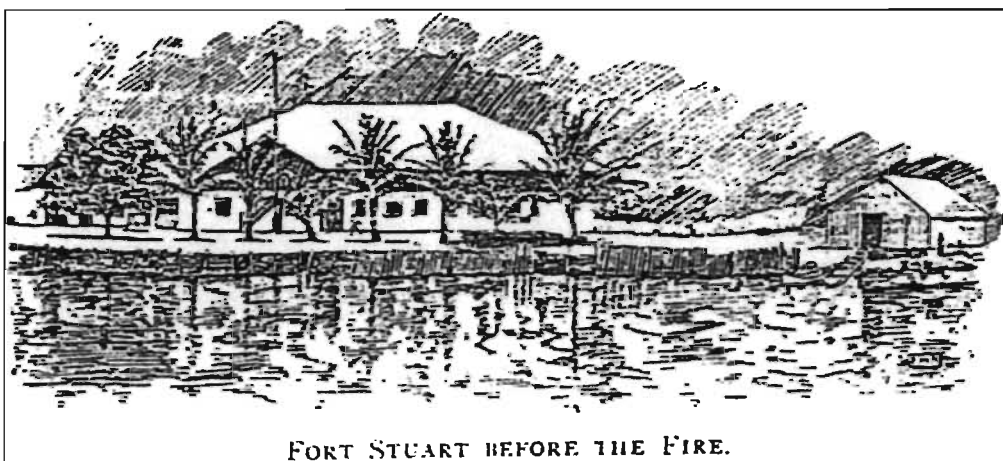


Figure 1 Sketch of Fort Stuart before the fire (from Ref. 1)

It was, in fact, an old trading post built in the late 1800s on the Marina of Calabar by the local European Agent of the Liverpool merchants, Stuart and Douglas, and was thus named after the then surviving partner - Peter Douglas had died in 1885 (Ref. 2).

In 1889, the Company's African business was acquired by the African Association Ltd, from whom Fort Stuart was in turn purchased in 1892 by the colonial Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate. The latter's Commissioner and Consul General, in a Report to the British Parliament for the years 1891 - 1894 (Ref. 3), stated:

*.... a large dwelling house with commodious sheds, outhouses as well as a suitable wharf was purchased from the African Association and, after having been put into a state of repair, was converted into a Custom-house and offices as well as a Post Office.
.... another site has been converted into a small Naval yard - a slip has been constructed alongside. (Fig. 2).*

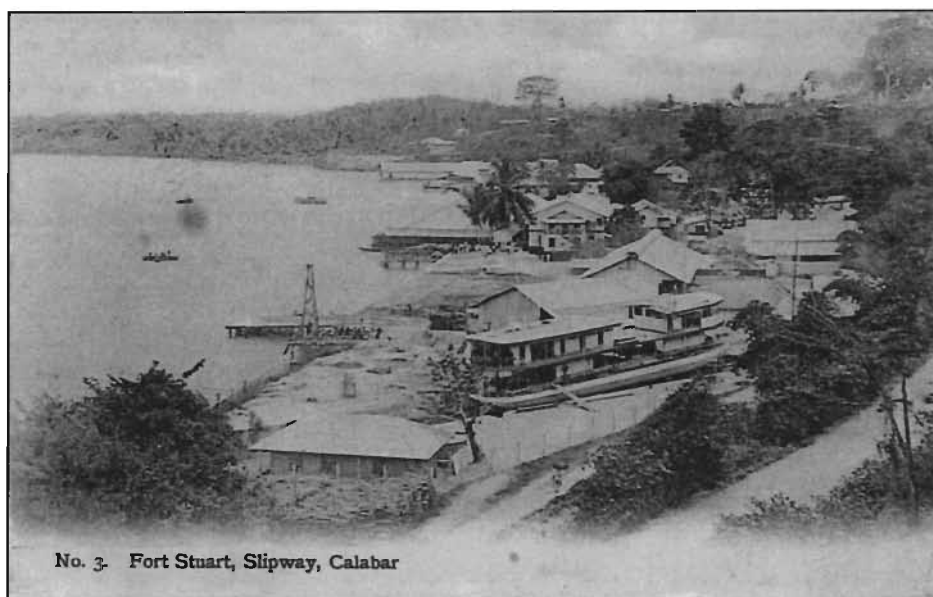


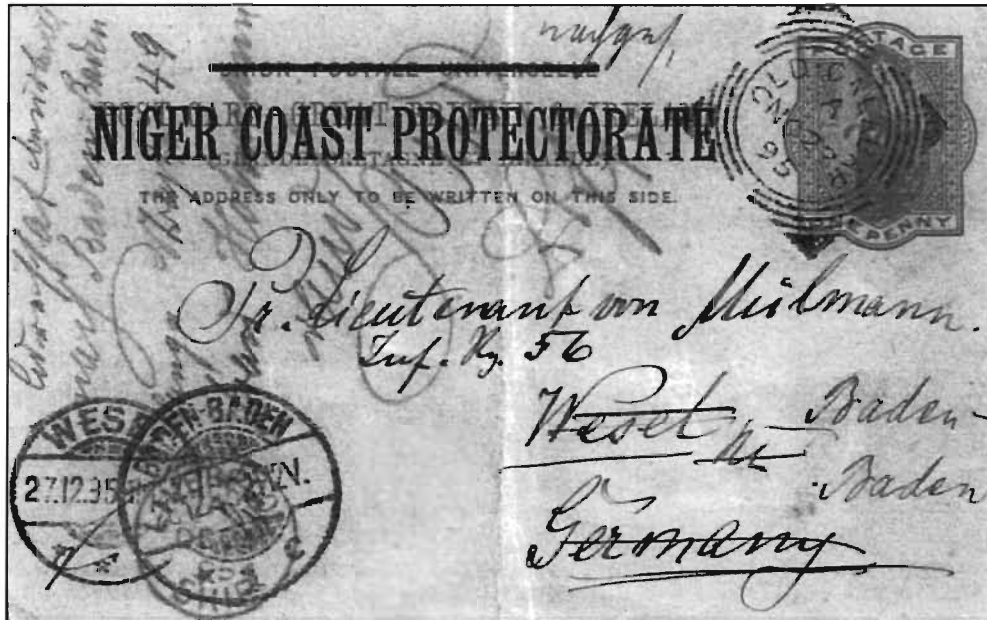
Figure 2 View card of Fort Stuart and Slipway, Calabar

Only three years later, on Sunday 24 November 1895, the building was completely destroyed by fire and Fort Stuart thus ceased to exist. A first hand account of this incident was given by the Postmaster-General, Mr. T.A. Wall, himself; it appeared in the London journal *St Martins Le Grand* in April 1900 (Ref. 1) from which this photograph of after the fire is taken (Fig. 3).



Figure 3 After the Fire. Breaking open the Post Office safe (from Ref. 1)

Saturday 23 November would thus have been the last day of postal operations of the Old Calabar post office in this Fort Stuart building. From this last post (in both senses) I have a postal card written and posted on that date (Figures 4/4A).



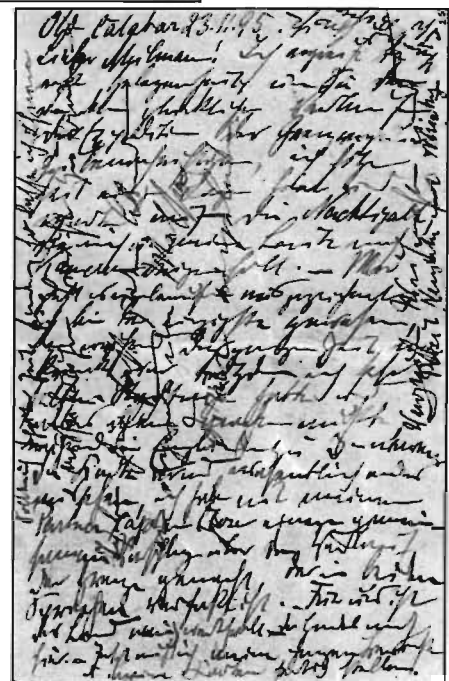
Figures 4 (left) & 4A (below, reduced)

Front and reverse of Postal Card to Germany written and posted 23 November 1895

To have missed the conflagration the outward mail then in the post office must have been closed that same day and put aboard a homeward-bound vessel lying in the Cross River. This may have been the steamship *Erasmus* as its crew were mentioned by the Postmaster as being on hand to help fight the fire from which not a single item in the post office was saved.

The card itself, somewhat unprepossessing in appearance, was chanced upon in a box of oddments at a street fair and initially passed over as having no substance for further research. But intuition prevailed in its rescue, with a great result ultimately.

It is a British Victorian postal card with an imprinted 1d stamp and overprinted for provisional use in the Niger Coast Protectorate which in May 1893 replaced the Oil Rivers Protectorate. It was written in German on 23 November 1895 and posted the same day at the Old Calabar post office. The addressee was a Lt. von Mulmann, 56th Infantry Regt., Wesel, Germany - about the only legible writing on the card! The writer's name cannot be discerned. In transit, the card was date stamped LIVERPOOL/A/DE 25/95/SHIP (in red), WESEL/27.12.95 and BADEN-BADEN/28.12.95 (both in black). The addressee was not found at Wesel hence it was redirected to Baden Baden in ink with an additional penciled annotation in German: *Addressee vacationing in Baden Baden, Lange Strasse 49.*



Turning to the message side: the writing is a complete mishmash and a horror to the eye of any beholder. It is excruciatingly difficult to read, even by Germans, as the latter part of the message is written at right angles to the first part. I could only discern the words 'Prosit' and 'Whisky!' Some cheer!

Fortunately, I found two German fellow postal historians, Wolfgang Richter and Ed Drechsel who kindly willingly tackled what was virtually a double 'translation'. Thanks immeasurably to their amazing perseverance; their complementary efforts produced the translation into English as follows - errors and omissions excepted:

Dear Mulmann,

I take this first opportunity to inform you of the happy completion of the expedition to determine the borders. I have been here for the past few days waiting for the *Nachtigal* (a Kamerun Government vessel) which will take me and the other members back to Kamerun. I am, knock on wood, in the best of health. I was the only one who, during the whole time, was never ill despite the fact that I seldom had a good night's rest. I had to do everything for everybody without respite. The map will, in a major way, look quite differently. Together with my partner, Capt. Close (British officer) I have made a joint proposal concerning how the exact course of the border should run; this is in both languages. For us this land is important because of the trade traffic here. I must complete all my reports and maps. Should I find I have time left then I will send you a more detailed account.

Almost every evening I am ??? by Melsen and invited to dinner.

A Happy Christmas and Good New Year - with whiskey. Thousand greetings.

(Signature illegible)

This reveals the second facet to the card's story - an incident in the European Powers' scramble for Africa. It concerned the firming up of the provisional border between British Nigeria and German Kamerun as agreed by a treaty signed between the two European nations in 1890. Britain's particular interest was to consolidate her control of the Old Calabar/Cross River throughout its navigable length.

During October/November 1895 an Anglo-German Expedition, jointly headed by Capt. C.F. Close and Hauptmann von Besser (Ref. 4), undertook the necessary task of delimitation. As seen, at its conclusion, the card was written by an undeterminable German member of that Expedition but quite probably the writer was von Besser himself, as in the message reference is made to his British partner, Capt. Close.

Such is this unusual but most intriguing story behind the long overlooked postcard of two halves.

To conclude: shown as Fig. 5 is a view card of the river and beach at Calabar, as Old Calabar was renamed in 1904. It shows the new Customs-house and Post Office building, which replaced Fort Stuart destroyed in the fire of 1895. The manuscript notes written thereon were added by the sender.

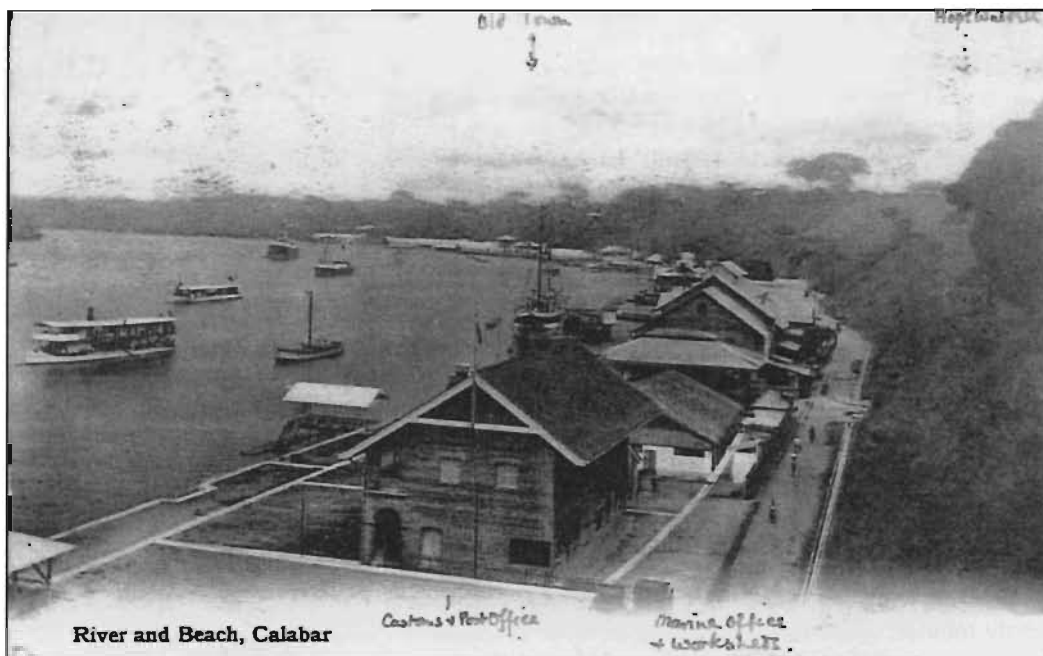


Figure 5 View card of River and Beach, Calabar, showing rebuilt Post Office

References

- 1 Wall T.A., "Fort Stuart and the Post Office Service of the Niger Coast Protectorate", *St Martins Le Grand*, London 1900
- 2 *The Life of Peter Stuart, L. Finnegan* (For Family Circulation 1920)
- 3 Report to (British) Parliament on Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate for the Years 1891-1894. Africa No. 1 (1895) HMSO, London
- 4 Herterich Wolfgang, *Expeditionen in Kamerun 1884-1914*, 1999



Who Was Who in Nigeria/Camerouns in WWII Correspondents Godfrey Allen and Ken Read

Bob Maddocks

Here illustrated (Fig. 1) is a nondescript WWII stampless inter-Nigeria cover which would, perhaps, not normally have attracted any particular interest. However, I became intrigued because I was already familiar with the names of both the addressee, Ken Read, and the sender, Major J.G.C. Allen - especially the former, whom I had known personally when in the Cameroons in the late 1950s.

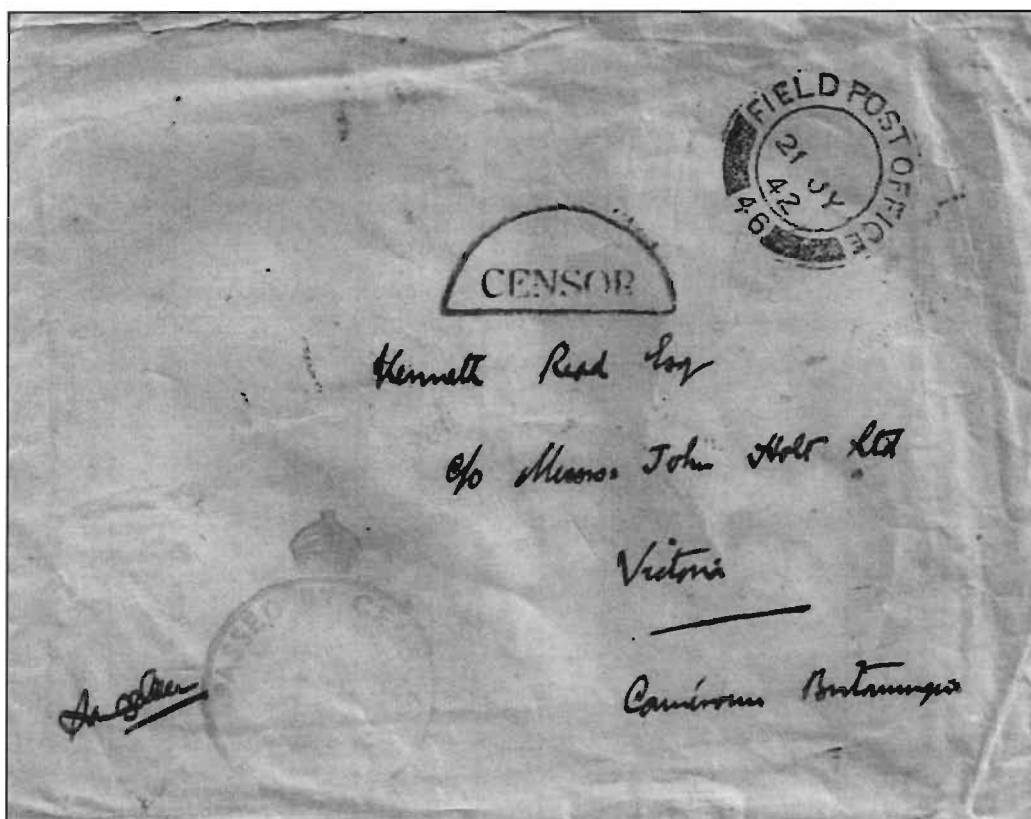


Figure 1 Cover from Field Post Office No. 46 datestamped 21 JY 42 to Victoria, Cameroons

Then, a while back, I chanced upon the latter's name when reading an account of the epic story of the drive of the French General Le Clerc and his Fighting French Force (Ref. 1) through the desert from Tchad to attack the Italians in Libya. Le Clerc had come to prominence in August 1940 when, from the British Cameroons, he crossed the intervening creeks by canoe to Douala and, with local patriots' support, seized control of French Cameroun for Free France. Instrumental in the planning and success of this coup was Major Allen, of the Nigerian Administration Service, seeming a man of many parts as anon.

It transpired that it was probably at this time that the two correspondents became first acquainted.

To begin with the cover itself, this was mailed from British Field Post Office No. 46, known sited at Lagos, Nigeria on 21 July 1942 and was addressed to Victoria, British Cameroons, there backstamped 2 August 1942. On the front is the faint impression in mauve of a Nigeria military unit censor cachet, a Crown over a circle enclosing the words 'PASSED BY CENSOR/No/????'. Major Allen's own signature, as censoring officer, is alongside. The half-moon 'CENSOR' cachet struck in red was likely applied on the cover's arrival in Victoria, which was the location of Nigeria Civil Censorship Station No. 19.



Figure 2

Reverse of cover illustrated as Figure 1

The sender's name and rank are written on the reverse (Fig. 2). Of particular note is that the free frank concession was not confirmed by such as the usual superscription 'On Active/or On H.M. Government/Service'.

The addressee, Ken Read, was then Agent in charge of all John Holt & Co. (Liverpool) Ltd.'s operations (merchants, shippers, produce buyers, etc.) in Southern Cameroons where, at Victoria, he had resided for many years.

As a Coaster, he was highly respected and his knowledge of and advice on local matters were often sought by the senior officers of the British Colonial Administration. He was naturally very reticent about his non-commercial activities in wartime but I later gathered that even before the outbreak of war he became involved, but to an unknown extent, in assisting unofficial Nigerian Government Missions sent from Lagos via British Cameroons to Douala in French Cameroun.

These missions masked contacts being made with French patriots in the senior echelons of the local militia and commerce in Douala who increasingly sought British support against their own weak and indecisive Government, which was inclined to neutrality and/or adherence to Vichy when Metropolitan France came under German control. Major Allen was the principal liaison officer and he smuggled coded reports and messages from Douala to his contact in British Cameroons to be telegraphed to Lagos. Quite probably because of the 'unofficial' nature of Allen's mission, that contact was Ken Read, via John Holt's Agent in Douala.

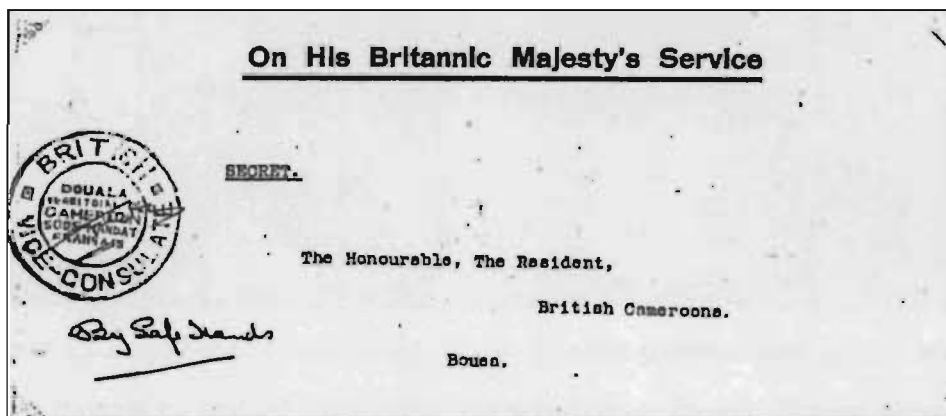


Figure 3 'By Safe Hands' cover from the British Consulate, Douala to British Resident, Buea

The British Vice-Consul in Douala was also in surreptitious communication with the British Resident at Buea in Southern Cameroons. Verification of this is seen by the stampless courier-run cover illustrated above (Fig. 3). It is headed 'On His Britannic Majesty's Service' and bears the cachet and a signature of the British Vice-Consulate, Douala. Marked 'SECRET' it also has the annotation, in manuscript 'By Safe Hands'. Obviously the cover was not intended to be sent through the post, instead it would have been carried by a trustworthy person through the creeks of the Wourri River to Tiko thence to Buea.

There are no indications as to when this cover was despatched. It is known however, that on 19 August 1940 the then British Vice-Consul, Mr E.W. Channell was ordered by the pro-Vichy Administration to leave Cameroun because of his 'unacceptable activities'.

In Southern Cameroun there was a mere handful of British nationals (about 50), mostly Government officials, outnumbered by German residents by six to one. With the outbreak of war, Ken Read had helped with the local police to round up and intern the many German planters and their families living in and around Victoria. He was also subsequently involved in mid- 1940 in the covert local arrangements to temporarily accommodate on a remote plantation near Ekona and support a small Free French armed unit under General (then Colonel) Le Clerc sent from England by General De Gaulle to seize Douala. This was in response to Allen's appeals to London for urgent action to forestall a Vichy takeover of French Cameroun. Crossing the intervening creeks from Tiko on the night of 26 August 1940, Le Clerc with the help of local militia, seized Douala early the next day and Cameroun declared for Free France.

The new Governor, General Le Clerc, on 12 September 1940, authorised the overprinting of all current stocks of Cameroun postage stamps 'Cameroun Francais/27.8.40'. This involved 31 different values and was spread over 3 weeks, the overprinting and issue for sale often confusingly being on the same day. Ken Read, himself a philatelist, must somehow have had privileged first hand knowledge of this. He was the first certainly on the British philatelic scene to provide official details of these overprints, which came to be published in the September 1942 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

Another probability is that Ken Read was also involved in the British postal censorship activity at Victoria. He declined offers of promotion within John Holt's which would have meant leaving his beloved Cameroun before retirement around 1960; he died in 1981.

If Ken Read's light was somewhat hidden under the proverbial bushel so too, and to a much larger extent, was that of his correspondent, Godfrey Allen, who had played such a vital role in the coup which gave De Gaulle his first territorial success. Sadly there is no known biography of this interesting man, but I found an entry in the 'Who Was Who' of national biographies on his death in 1982 after over 50 years' service in Nigeria in various capacities. These included:-

1926 Cadet, Nigerian Administrative Service; 1929-45 Assistant District Officer and District Officer; 1947-53 Resident and Senior Resident; 1942-43 Major, Nigeria Regiment; 1937-39 Anglo-French Boundary Commission (sic); 1940 Nigeria Representative with the Free French, Douala; 1940-41 Chief Censor and Chief of Military Intelligence, Lagos; 1942-43 West African Liaison Officer with the Free French Forces in Equatorial Africa; 1943 Political Secretary to Resident Minister, West Africa; 1946-52 Deputy Commissioner of the Colony, Lagos; 1952-56 Senior Resident, Rivers Province; 1957-61 Director of Administration, Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation; 1961-69 Secretary, Nigerian Timber Assoc. He was then retired but was then re-employed as Head of Social Welfare Services and etc. before finally retiring to the UK in 1978.

Finally there is this photograph (Fig. 4) of Major Allen as found in the book *Out of the Sand* (Ref. 1). It was taken in Tchad in 1942/43 where he was again the British West Africa liaison officer working with General Le Clerc, who was preparing for a successful attack across the desert from Fort Lamy on Italian military outposts in Libya.

Thus out of little much has been made.

Reference

- 1 Maule H., *Out of the Sand*, Oldham Books Ltd., London 1966

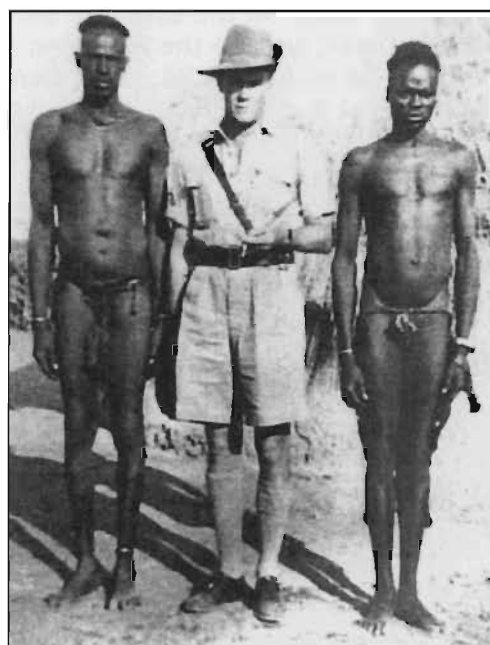
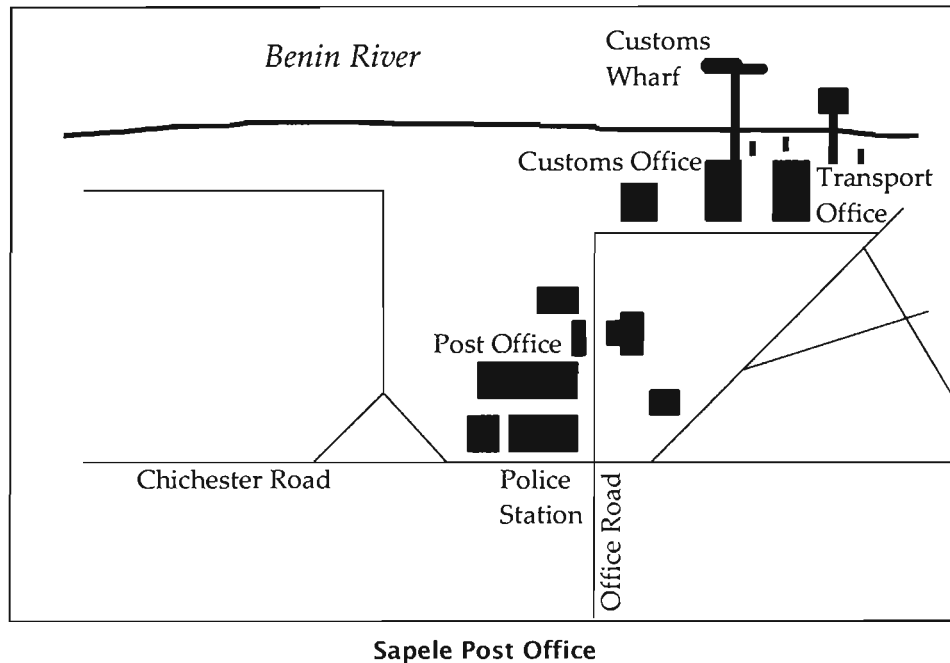


Figure 4
Photograph of Major J.C.G. Allen in Tchad 1942/43 (from Ref. 1)

Theft from the Sapele Post Office, May 1914

Dr. Simon Heap

On 29 May 1914, Postmaster-General James Somerville of the newly Amalgamated Nigeria reported to the colonial government that there had been a loss of precisely £34 8s 4d from the Sapele post office (Ref.1). With a much larger theft at Forcados post office just forty miles away earlier in the month (see pp160-161 of this *Cameo*), this new case revolved around First Class Clerk James Cromanty from Sierra Leone who worked as Sapele's postmaster.



Source: Sapele, Survey Department, Lagos March 1950, sheet 11
(1 inch = 200 ft.)

Cromanty's usual practice was to leave all the counter work in the hands of Third Class Clerk Mr Doti. On the Saturday before the loss occurred Cromanty did not collect the cash from the counter, and on the following Monday, the day the mail left, the cash in the hands of Doti amounted to £64 2s 8d. Even then Cromanty did not take over the cash, but after despatching the mail at 4 pm told the counter clerk to put the money in a bag in the safe. Doti did this, but when he got the money out of the safe the next morning £34 8s 4d out of £64 8s 4d was missing, leaving exactly £30 in the bag.

On the morning in question Cromanty got to the office at 8.50 am, opened the safe, and let Doti have the cash. Cromanty then closed the safe and went back to his house for some unexplained reason, probably to get properly dressed. It was not until after he left the office that the loss was noticed.

Doti stated that immediately after handing over the money Mr. Cromanty left the office. Mr. Cromanty claimed that he was there for thirty minutes. Evidence was conflicting on this point - the Messenger backed up the counter clerk; the Postman the Postmaster. Under police questioning, Doti stated that when he took the bag out of the safe he did not notice that anything was gone or the contents were light, and that it was only after he had begun to count the cash that the smallness of the amount occurred to him.

According to Somerville, Cromanty had the keys to the safe and office, and so he *is responsible for all the cash in the office, and if he allows a junior clerk to keep £60 on hand he must take the risk of loss. Mr. Cromanty has a bad record and the District Officer at Sapele now reports that he was obliged to remove Mr. Cromanty from duty on account of his being intoxicated in the office.* (Ref. 2)

In July 1914, Somerville ordered Cromanty to travel to Lagos, where he intended him to question him 'more fully and ask him for reasons why he should not be dismissed' (Ref.3).

This criminal case brings to light the work record of James Cromanty. It illustrates the detailed nature of the notes kept by the colonial government on individual staff for their bureaucratic needs: job titles, dates and places of work, all required for salaries, increments, promotions and the calculation of pensions. It is worth reproducing in full here to show the ups and downs of his nine years' service in three colonies – Lagos, Southern Nigeria and Nigeria – including additional personal comments by Cromanty and Somerville.

- 1905: Joined the government as a clerk in the Accounts Branch of the Post Office, Lagos
- 1906: Transferred to the local office and placed in charge of Money Orders and Postal Orders
- Sent to Calabar for about three months to relieve the Money Order Clerk who was on sick leave
- Returned to Lagos and resumed duty in the Accounts Branch
- Sent to Opobo to relieve the Postmaster, who was going on annual leave
- January 1909: Returned to Lagos
- 1909: Relieved the Postmaster at Ibadan for four months
- 1909: Returned to Lagos
- 1909: On leave
- January 1910: Worked for a couple of months at the Accounts
- March 1910: District Postmaster, Ibadan, 'which duties I performed for 3½ years efficiently' (Cromanty)
- 1911: Increment stopped for unsatisfactory work whilst in charge at Ibadan - 'an extraordinary number of errors in his accounts during 1910-11' (Somerville)
- January 1912: Cautioned for gross carelessness in treatment of letter for British Cotton Growing Association (BCGA)
- 1912: Continued irregularities in his accounts
- June 1913: Refunded £2 10s wrongly paid into wrong Savings Bank account and seriously cautioned
- 1913: Postmaster, Sapele, on an annual salary of £132
- October 1913: Serious irregularity in forwarding Savings Bank withdrawal notice – fined and censured
- 'During this period Mr. Cromanty was frequently cautioned for missent letters and there were far too many minor errors in his accounts. The number of letters missing while Mr. Cromanty was at Sapele was excessive' (Somerville)
- February 1914: Missent parcel mail for Accra to Cape Coast (Ref. 4)

In a subsequent petition to Governor Lugard, Cromanty had nothing to urge in his defence except the plea of being busy. He explained that there was no reason why he should not have counted the cash before he closed at 4 pm – it would have taken half an hour to do so. He pointed out that he could not have entered the office during the night because of the guard on the District Officer's safe.

As Somerville made clear in his own notes, however, the way the buildings were situated meant the Post Office could be approached and entered by the back door by anyone without being seen by the guard.

He described Doti as 'an inexperienced youth and no blame can be attached to him', while Cromanty was 'guilty of the grossest carelessness' and 'his record is highly unsatisfactory'. Somerville continued to pull no punches: 'Prior to the loss of money, Mr. Cromanty had to be placed off duty by the Commissioner at Sapele because he attended duty when the worse for liquor. I recommend that Mr. Cromanty be dismissed from the service'. (Ref. 5)

Cromanty was sacked, his September salary withheld, and no passage funded from Lagos to Sierra Leone. A married man with a family, it was then reported he had left Lagos and gone to Sekondi on his way home to Sierra Leone.

(7) I have always endeavoured to do my work satisfactorily to the best of my ability since I joined the Service nine years ago; and I respectfully crave the P.M.'s kind consideration to be lenient with me on this occasion.

I have the honour to be
 Sir
 Your Obedient Servant

Jas Cromanty
 1st Class Clerk

Conclusion of
 Cromanty's
 petition to
 Postmaster-General
 Somerville,
 28 July 1914

References

All references from Nigeria Archives, Ibadan (NAI), Chief Secretary's Office (CSO) 19/2/N.2126/1914

- 1 James Somerville, Postmaster General, Nigeria, to Walter Evans, Acting Central Secretary, Nigeria, 29 May 1914.
- 2 Somerville to Evans, 29 May 1914
- 3 Minute by Somerville, 24 August 1914
- 4 NAI, CSO 19/2/N.2126/1914, Somerville to Evans, 29 May 1914; Letter and Petition from Mr. James Cromanty to Sir Frederick Lugard, Governor, Nigeria, 30 September 1914
- 5 Minute by Somerville, 24 August 1914

Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements

WE WISH TO BUY

Should you feel that you have exhausted your present collecting interest please bear in mind that we are competitive buyers of specialised collections and studies; particularly those that have gained good awards at National and International exhibitions.

We are equally interested in acquiring individual items such as proofs, essays, early postal history and scarce multiples.

REGISTER OF SPECIALISTS

Register your interests with us to receive photocopies of suitable material as it becomes available. We maintain a stock built up over a period of 50 years of trading in fine, rare and unusual pieces of the world.

RITCHIE BODILY, PO BOX 475, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 3DH
E-mail: Rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 0208 255 1219

GAMBIA 'CAMEO' OFFERS FROM STOCK

1869 6d blue (deep shade) from top of sheet with large margins. Very fine mint. Ex Dale. SG 3a. £400	1881 4d brown (2nd Consignment : Line Perf 14). Very fine mint. Rare with this perforation. SG 15B. £375
1874 4d brown watermark inverted. Good to large margins. Very fine used with GAMBIA PAID c.d.s. in red. SG 5w. £250	1881 6d deep blue in complete sheet of 15 with both sloping labels. Extremely scarce. Ex Dale. SG 17B/Bc. £2750
1874 6d blue with watermark inverted. Large even margins. Very fine mint. SG 8w. £350	1881 1/- green in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. Extremely rare in this form. Major showpiece. SG 19B. £9000
1880 ½d orange (watermark sideways). Very fine mint. SG 10A. £325	1897 3d 'pearl grey' in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 29. £175
1881 ½d orange (watermark upright) in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 10B. £325	1887 4d deep blackish-brown in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. SG 31. £250
1881 3d pale dull ultramarine in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. Rare in such fine condition. SG 14cB. £1100	1889 6d olive-green in complete sheet of 15 with both sloping labels. Very fine mint. SG 32d/da. £1100
1881 3d pale dull ultramarine with watermark inverted in marginal block of six. Unmounted mint. SG 14cBw. £475	1889 6d deep bronze-green in complete sheet of 15 with both sloping labels. Very fine mint. SG 33c/ca. £600

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

MARK HARVEY

P O BOX 50

HASLEMERE

SURREY GU27 1WX

Tel/Fax (01428) 642702

e-mail: mark@surreystamps.com

Quality British Commonwealth POSTAL HISTORY

Catering to the discriminating collector

Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material
We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.

If you are not already on our Wants register, please drop us a line and let us know your requirements. We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

Willard S. Allman

828, Arrow Lane, Ridgewood

NJ 07450, USA

Tel: 001-201-848-8883

Fax: 001-201-847-8481

Please mention Cameo when you contact our advertisers

West Africa

in London



Interesting West Africa material features regularly in our specialised public auctions held in central London, the heart of the global stamp market. Register your interests with us today.

To vendors we offer a friendly and flexible approach, backed by a wealth of professional experience, that guarantees the best possible results.

Our high-quality catalogues and extensive international mailing are backed by regular advertising in general and specialist journals worldwide.

Each auction is presented for viewing, in full and with supplementary illustrations, on our website: www.grosvenorauctions.com

Contact Glyn Page, Nick Kerridge or Andrew Williams today for further information on our upcoming auctions and details of our exceptionally competitive, fully inclusive terms for vendors.

Privileged commission rates are available for society members.

GROSVENOR

399-401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT

T: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 F: +44 (0)20 7379 9737 E: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com