

C A M E O



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

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EDITORIAL

It is New Years Day. As I write, the sun shines from a clear blue sky but the whole of Britain is covered by a blanket of snow. Just the weather for stamps.

Several points to make in this editorial. Firstly, CAMEO was awarded a Bronze medal at the 1978 British Philatelic Exhibition and this, I feel, is a credit to all those who have submitted articles.

In this edition, I am able to include another article by courtesy of Alistair Kennedy of the Forces Postal History Society, this time on the Camerouns. Robert Johnson of the Postal History Society has also produced two more Post Office notices for reproduction. My thanks to them both.

It is only in the last few weeks that sufficient material has been produced to enable CAMEO to be printed. More notes and articles from more members are needed. Would someone like to compile an Auction Realisations list twice a year? Another subject of interest is Covers with a Story - a photograph of an interesting cover plus a brief write-up.

Mr. M.P. Nicholson of 11, Londoun Way, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, England is compiling an article on the 'Local Overprints and Surcharges of the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorate 1893-1894'. Would any member wishing to see the draft copy for comments and additions please contact Mr. Nicholson.

Mr. Beale and Mr. West have commented on the December 1978 Robson Lowe British West Africa sale. About a dozen Circle members attended one or both sessions and bidding for most of the lots was very keen. I attended the morning session which included Gold Coast. Several covers fetched in excess of valuation. In particular, this applied to a series bearing 1884-91 values. For example, an 1890 registered cover with a 6d stamp and blue 'R' estimated at £50 made £130.

The 1874 Wolseley Expedition covers with LIVERPOOL P.S. PACKET realised £400 and £380 respectively, and the three 1900 Rebellion covers between £130 and £180. The market for the unusual and/or the 'eye-appeal' item is undoubtedly very strong.

At the October 1978 Circle meeting in London, I gave notice that I intended to retire as Editor after CAMEO 10. When I started the magazine, it was always my intention to edit a minimum of ten issues - five years - and then consider handing over to someone else. I feel that any magazine benefits from such a change in that a new editor brings fresh ideas. My hope is that, with more time, I will be able to do more writing myself.

May I conclude with my Best Wishes to all Members for 1979.

'PS' AND 'LB' LIVERPOOL DATESTAMPS

In CAMEO 7, pages 140-142, Mr. Whitfield wrote about the above Liverpool datestamps. Mr. R.V. Gleave, a member of the Postal History Society, has written to Mr. Whitfield with the following information.

- (a) PS PACKET - does represent mail carried by Pacific Steam Navigation Company steamers. In July 1870, they entered into contract with the Post Office for a fortnightly service to Valparaiso.

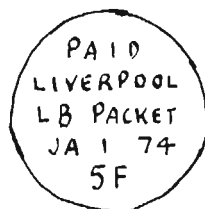
Ports of call were Liverpool - Bordeaux - Lisbon - St. Vincent - Rio de Janeiro - Montevideo - Sandy Point - Valparaiso (with the same calls on the way home). It seems to me that West African mail would be more likely to be transhipped at St. Vincent rather than at Lisbon although I have nothing whatsoever to back up that statement.

The Rev. Jeremy Howat of Wheldrake Rectory (south of York) has spent many hours compiling the sailing dates of the P.S.N. ships from newspaper reports. Your cover with arrival date of 16/3/74 was on board the "Garonne" which had left Valparaiso on 20/1/74.

Your other cover which arrived on 21/1/74 was on board the "Puho"; Valparaiso 9/12/73; St. Vincent 9/1/74; Lisbon 15-16/3/74; with calls also at Bahia and Pernambuco on the way. P.S.N. ships were calling at St. Vincent from 1868 until at least 1876.

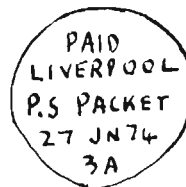
- (b) LB PACKET As far as is known the LB Packet mark illustrated in the P.H.S. article is the only example which has turned up. LB has nothing to do with Lisbon but represents "Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Co.", better known as Lamport and Holt. Jeremy Howat has found that between January 1874 (issue of the hanstamp) and July 1875, out of 18 arrivals in the U.K. the mail was landed at Southampton on 15 occasions, 2 unknown and 1 at Liverpool (9/11/1874).
- (c) TWO KINDS OF "PS" PAID This is where the going gets complicated! In 1874, the G.P.O. issued two handstamps which are shown in A.W. Robertson's book as P.24 and P.25a.

P 24



L HAS SPACE
BETWEEN THE
RIM AND THE
LETTER

P 25 a



L ALMOST
TOUCHING
THE RIM.

I am convinced that the 'LB' and 'PS' in these two were loose and could be inter-changed. All the steel "PAID PS" I have seen have been P.25a as shown above. In my example, it seems to be P.24 with "PS" instead of "LB".

If you look at the LB PACKET shown in the P.H.S. article, the "L's" of LIVERPOOL appear very close to the rim and appear to be P.25a with 'LB' instead of 'PS'.

Hope I have made myself clear - let me know if not or if there is anything I have missed.

I would be interested to know of any further dates which turn up, especially if they are 'LB'.

THE ROBSON LOWE SALES OF 24. NOV. 76 AND 21. DEC. 78.

P.O. BEALE

These two sales have included the West African sections of stamp material from the de la Rue archives. Most of the material taken from the Albums has been described to readers of Cameo but the sales contained some surprises. The Albums that were put together after the last war contained the majority of the firm's essays, proofs, imperiums, specimens and stamps but there were some items left in the pages of the Private Day Books, the Correspondence Books and those volumes of cut down Die Proofs that survived the wartime bombing of their printing works. Most of these were removed before the sales and incorporated in them. It has often been said that those Die Proofs that have been on the market over the past thirty years were ones 'picked up' after the bombing.

The material that has not previously been described, because it was not then in the Albums, comprised postal stationery, revenue and cheque stamps, photographic essays, sketches and additional Die Proofs. The study of the catalogues is essential for any record of the stamps of former British West Africa and we trust our members have all obtained their copies. The following comments must be no more than picking out a few items, but they should illustrate the wealth of material that was offered for sale. We shall see nothing like it again.

The Gambia section included many superb Appendix sheets and Cameo Die Proofs, and the 6d in black on glazed card, struck when the second plate was prepared following damage to the top row, was particularly fine. There were Cancelled overprints for both of the early values. There was a Gambia photographic essay for the 1922 issue, a cheque stamp, and a 2d stamp duty. As far as is known, the latter was unissued as the colony used colourless embossed stamps for revenue purposes. Among the postal stationery was the proof of the 1937 George 6th registration die; of great interest because unrecorded apart from Specimen envelopes until four used covers appeared on the market two years ago.

Among the Gold Coast material was a series of magnificent Imperium Proofs, many interesting postal stationery proofs, and two photographic essays dated 18.2.97 showing the elephant and palm badge. They were essays for unissued stamps, one Judicial, and it is presumed the artist who designed the Sierra Leone 1912 high values and later the Gambia 1922 issue used this design. The detail is the same.

The Nigerias were full of interest. The first issue of Lagos was sold overprinted Cancelled and there were the Essays for the first stamp and for the Edward issue. Drawings for Revenue stamps concluded that section. Northern Nigeria contained a large range of Essays and colour schemes and the £25 stamp was shown with four imperforate proofs struck as colour trials, die proofs of the value and country tablets, and the issued stamp. In modern Nigeria the postal stationery again attracted much attention and included the 1920, 1925 and 1931 booklets handstamped or overprinted specimen. The George 5th 1936 proofs were splendid.

The first sale had included most of the Sierra Leone material but the second had a fine range of Die Proofs, much postal stationery, and the artist's hand painted essay for the first Revenue stamp which was, when overprinted, used for postal purposes.

Southern Nigeria had an exceptionally rich series of Proof material that began with a handpainted inscription on an Imperium proof. All the printer's appendix sheets were offered and we hope they will remain intact rather than be cut up as happened to several of the appendices sold at the first auction, Sierra Leone for example.

We have not commented on some very fine King George 5th proofs that were on sale from Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone because this material was not de la Rue and had been sent by other vendors. Some members of the Circle would no doubt recognize that much of the Gold Coast section came from the very fine collection of Mr. Whitfield and he will be pleased to know that many items went to others in the Circle and so will remain available for further study. We hope that members specialising in Ascension and St Helena will be able to write about the exceptional material offered from those islands.

If we could select two features of the sale, it would be the remarkable prices paid for the postal stationery and for the revenue stamps. At the previous sale such postal stationery as was offered attracted little attention but this time it often realised double or more the estimate and the impression was that the buyers would have gone even higher. The historian must regret that the entire de la Rue collection has been dispersed without the 20th century material having been written up, but Messrs. Robson Lowe are to be congratulated for having illustrated so much in their catalogues and for having lotted it so carefully. Those who were fortunate enough to obtain material will be given much pleasure - there is a real responsibility to preserve it carefully.

No. 9, 1863.



INCREASE OF POSTAGE
ON LETTERS FOR
**THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL,
ST. HELENA, and ASCENSION,**
WHEN CONVEYED BY PACKET; AND
REDUCTION OF POSTAGE
WHEN CONVEYED BY PRIVATE SHIP.

The revenue derived from letters conveyed by Packet between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension having been found to be wholly insufficient to cover the expense of the Packet Service, it has been decided to revert to the former rate of postage of ONE SHILLING for letters, to and from those places, not exceeding half-an-ounce in weight, and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have, by Warrant, directed that this increased rate shall be charged *on the 1st April next, and thenceforward.*

Simultaneously, the scale of progression for charging letters addressed to any of the foregoing places will be modified by substituting for the existing scale, a scale of weight having half-an-ounce as an unit throughout, with the postage advancing by single rates, as follows:—

Not exceeding ½ oz.	Above ½ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Above 1 oz. and not exceeding 1½ oz.	Above 1½ oz. and not exceeding 2 ozs.	Every additional ½ oz.
s. 1 d. 0	s. 2 d. 0	s. 3 d. 0	s. 4 d. 0	s. 1 d. 0

At the same time, in order to provide a yet cheaper means than at present of sending letters, not requiring great speed and punctuality, to and from the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension, the postage by Private Ship will be reduced from Sixpence to Fourpence the half-ounce, increasing for heavier letters at the rate of Fourpence for each half-ounce, according to the above scale of progression.

The postage upon letters for the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, and St. Helena, whether conveyed by Packet or by Private Ship, may either be paid in advance or left to be paid on delivery; but in all cases where the postage is not prepaid, the letters will be charged on delivery with one additional rate besides the usual postage.

The postage on letters addressed to Ascension *must be paid in advance*, or they cannot be forwarded.

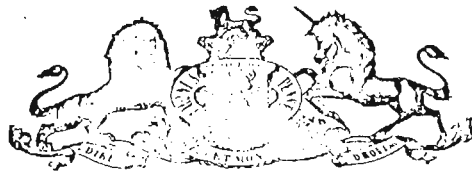
By Command of the Postmaster-General,

ROWLAND HILL,

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
24th March, 1863.

Secretary.

No. 0, 1864.



LETTERS

FOR THE

Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension.

AS many Letters for the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena and Ascension, continue to be posted insufficiently prepaid, the Public are reminded that Letters for any of those places, when not specially directed to be sent by Private Ship, are forwarded by Mail Packet, and are chargeable with the following rates of postage, viz. :—

FOR A LETTER

Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Above $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Above 1 oz. and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Above $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 2 ozs.	For every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
s. d. 1 0	s. d. 2 0	s. d. 3 0	s. d. 4 0	s. d. 1 0

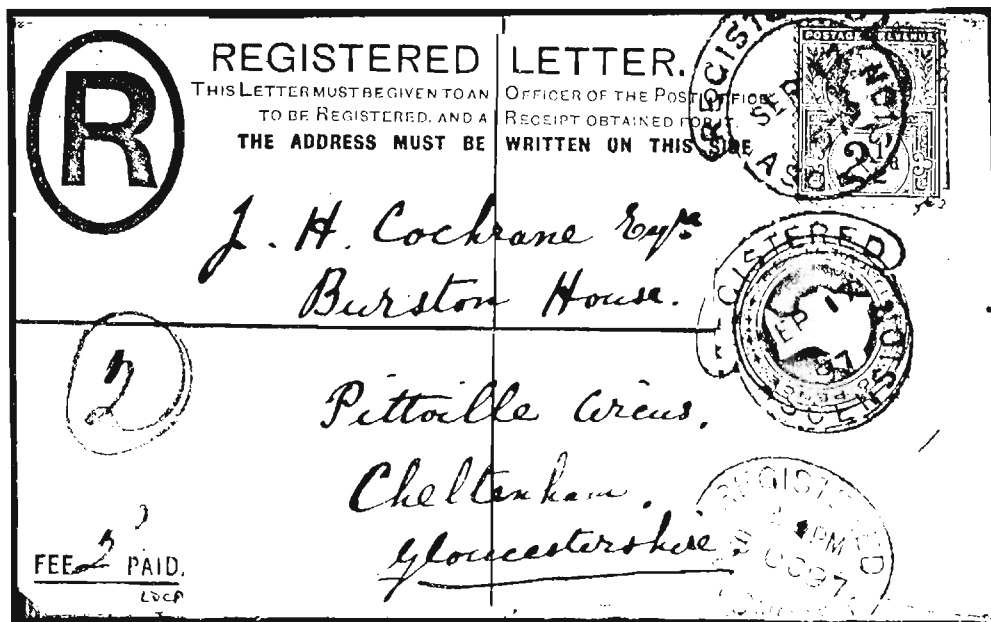
In all cases where the whole postage is not paid in advance, the Letters are charged, on delivery, with an additional rate of one shilling, besides the amount of the deficient postage.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
12th March, 1864.

ASCENSION REGISTEREDT. DAVIS

Trevor Davis, the Postal History dealer, has shown your Editor an apparently unrecorded Hooded Registration cancellation.



This is on a size F Great Britain 2d registered postal stationery envelope supplemented with an additional G.B. 2½d adhesive. The hooded circle date-stamp reads 'REGISTERED / SEP 17/97/ASCENSION'.

In addition, there is a REGISTERED DEVONPORT c.d.s. of October 8th and the cover was backstamped at Cheltenham on October 9th.

CAMEROONS - LETTER MAIL AND M.O. SERVICES

The undemoted extracts have been taken by Alistair Kennedy of the Forces Postal History Society from file PKT 48/1917 in G.P.O. records:-

- 6 Oct 1914 Letters on hand in Foreign Section addressed to British Expeditionary Force, German Cameroons.
- 11 Oct 14 Decided that such mail should be despatched (after being passed by the Censor) to Calabar, Nigeria, for onward transmission.

- 4 Nov 14 Direct despatch from Liverpool to Duala on S.S. "Karina" (Elder Dempster & Co. Ltd.) Uncensored correspondence could be included, as the Colonial Office had arranged for a local censorship to be established in the Cameroons.
- 11 Nov 14 Telegram from Colonial Office to Brigadier General Dobell at Duala "Your telegram of 3rd November. In future all correspondence with Damerons should be censored locally".
- 11 Nov 14 General Dobell asked Governor General of Nigeria for authority to issue Postal Orders from the Post Office at Duala.
- 23 Nov 14 Press Notice issued announcing that "The Mail Service to the Cameroons has been re-established".
- 25 Nov 14 Despatch by "Dakar" to Lagos for onward transmission by first steamer on government service. Next direct sailing by S.S. "Bornu" 10 Dec 14.
- 2 Dec 14 Question of the rate of postage on letters to members of the Expeditionary Force in the Cameroons is under enquiry; in the meantime, letters may be prepaid at the rate of 1d per oz (reply to enquirer).
- 8 Dec 14 Mail to B.E.F. Cameroons. Up to 4 Nov despatched to Calabar, after censorship. Since 4 Nov forwarded to Calabar uncensored. From 11 Dec 14 to go with despatches from Liverpool.
- 9 Dec 14 P.M.G. Lagos advised G.P.O. London that "a temporary Post Office at which British Postal Orders will be sold is being opened at Duala, Kamerun. This office will account to Nigeria in the same manner as an ordinary Post Office in that Administration".
- 10 Dec 14 Colonial Office advised G.P.O. that all mail and parcels for the Cameroons should be sent to Duala; correspondence regarding postal services to be addressed to the General Staff Officer, Duala.
- 14 Dec 14 Penny Postage to be extended to Samoa and other places occupied by British Forces, but the Cameroons not to be included at present.
- 3 Feb 15 Ordinary letters for the Cameroons remain at 2½d first oz, 1½d each oz after.
Parcels: to 3 lb 2/-; 3-7lb 2/6; 7-11lb 2/10.
Newspapers ½d per 2oz.

- 3 Dec 15 Perth Postmaster (who had charged 2½d on letters to the Forces, in accordance with P.O. Circular of 20/4/15 which stated that correspondence for troops overseas not with B.E.F. was to be prepaid at the rate applicable to the colony or station to which addressed) advised that as an exceptional measure correspondence for the British Troops in the Camerouns was accepted at 1d per oz.
- 4 Dec 15 Letter from Office of Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Duala, signed J.B. Laidlaw, Lieut R.E., advised that there was no system of registration within the Colony.
- 11 Apr 16 Mails for Duala henceforth to be sent to Lagos. British P.O. at Duala apparently closed 31/3/16.
- 15 Apr 16 U.P.U. Notice advised that a French P.O. opened at Duala, Cameroun, on 10th November, 1915, attached to French Equatorial Africa.
- 14 June 16 British Forces now all withdrawn from territory held by the French. Correspondence for the area occupied by the British to be sent via Calabar.
- July 16 Rates from U.K. still 2½d first oz.
- 25 Jan 17 G.P.O. Nigeria to G.P.O. London - reference to Post Offices being opened in British sphere of influence in the Camerouns.
Mails from U.K. for Kumba, Tiko and Buea to circulate to Victoria.
Mails for Bamenda, Tinto and Ossidinge to circulate to Calabar.
No British mails for the Camerouns to circulate to Duala; no direct parcel service between Nigeria and Duala.
- 6 Mar 17 Up to this date mails for Victoria, Tiko, Kumba and Bamenda forwarded from London to Calabar; in future to Liverpool for despatch to Victoria.
- 7 Mar 17 Mail from Victoria received on S.S. "Burutu". Correspondence posted at Victoria and Buea prepaid at 1d to U.K. and 2½d to continental countries.
Mail also received from Duala - prepaid at rate equivalent to 2½d - French Congo stamps used overprinted "Camerouns Occupation Francaise".
- July 17 Notice to appear in P.O. Circular 10/7/17 regarding inclusion in Imperial Penny Postage Scheme (papers not in file).

- 9 Apr 18 Victoria and Buea to undertake foreign money order business from 1st May, 1918.
- 31 Mar 22 Name OSSIDINGE changed to MAMFE.
- 3 May 22 Notice from U.P.U. Berne - From 14 Feb 22 territory of Cameroun created an independent postal administration with Yaounde as capital.
- 11 May 22 M.O. and S.B. business no longer transacted at Buea.
- Undated Circulation list: Victoria)
 Buea) to Victoria
 Kumba)
 Bamenda)
 Mamfe) to Port Harcourt
 Tinto)
- No P.O. at Tiko, circulation to Victoria.
- 15 Feb 29 U.P.U. Berne notified the adhesion of Nigeria and British Cameroons to the Stockholm Convention from 8th February.
- 10 Apr 29 Closed mails for Bahnpost, Koln to be despatched from Victoria on Woermann Line steamers via Southampton or Boulogne.
- 28 Nov 30 U.P.U. to be advised that correct description is "Cameroons under British Mandate" not "Cameroun Britannique".
- 9 May 42 Correspondence for Mamfe and Bamenda to be despatched via Enugu not Victoria.

Datestamps: Double ring (Nigerian type)

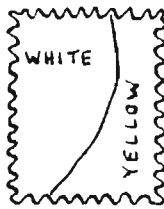
VICTORIA/NIGERIA 15 JY/28

VICTORIA/CAMBEROONS 9 MY/42

Mandate of the League of Nations for the Cameroons dated 20th July, 1922. Division based on Anglo-French Declaration of 10th July, 1919.

In Dalwick's "The Gambia" (1953) he recorded a variety of this stamp "in which the yellow surfacing has not printed on half the stamp, so that part is on yellow paper and part is on white". Having recently acquired a copy of this error, and having also a copy completely on white paper, I cannot understand how this variety can have occurred if we are to accept "orthodox" views on coloured papers. John Easton ("Postage Stamps in the Making") says that early colonial coloured papers were manufactured "by introducing the required dye into the pulp before the paper was made". Dalwick's variety could not possibly have been produced if this were the case. Gibbons, in Page xii of Part I, also state that colour surfacing was not introduced until the First World War. Dalwick clearly thought otherwise when he referred to the "yellow surfacing" of the 1905 3/- stamp.

For those who have not seen the variety, a rough diagram may help.



The left side of the stamp, on white paper, more truly reflects Gibbons' description of "carmine and green", which the normal stamp does not - the "carmine" appearing nearer to scarlet and the "green" a definite yellow-green. My copy on all white paper matches the colours of the left side of Dalwick's variety. I should be pleased to hear from any member who has either of these varieties.

GOLD COAST WATERMARK VARIETIES

In CAMEO 5 we listed some stamps with watermark inverted. Two more can be added:-

1876 - 79 4d (SG 7)

1913 - 21 5/- Die II (SG 82d).

Mr. V.W. Clarkson has discovered the 1913 1/- (SG 79) with watermark sideways. This is the first 1/- value of the series, not one of the later shades or dies.

"VICTORIAN LAGOS"

By M.J.C. Echernio, 1977

Extracts published by permission of MacMillan, London & Basingstoke"The Lagos Scene"

The rise of Lagos to a position of importance in the second half of the 19th Century...(was due to)...two principal factors...one was the abolition of the slave trade and the consequent introduction of the British Preventive Squadron to patrol the whole West Coast. This helped to increase the risks and the costs of the Atlantic Slave Trade from the traditional West Coast slaving ports and thereby helped the rise of small towns like Lagos and Badagry which (because they were not until then the prominent or very much frequented points on the coast, and therefore not heavily patrolled by the Squadron) offered the traders relatively safe and cheap ports for the evacuation of slaves.

Moreover, the hinterland of Lagos was quite disorganised during the early years of the century. The Oyo empire was breaking up as a result of its own internal inadequacies and conflicts; it was further disintegrating under the military pressure from the Fulani from the North. This pressure not only led to general disorder in the interior, it also brought about the fall of Oyo itself in 1835 and the resultant rise of Ibadan as a military power. These circumstances at first acted in the interest of Lagos and Badagry which now prospered from the trade in slaves from the disturbed interior. However, this advantage eventually became a liability of another kind in that it strengthened the stand of those ready to bring pressure to bear on the British Government to use the pretext of the illegal (and in the 1850's diminishing) trade in slaves to reduce Lagos to a colony by mid-century.

The second development favouring the rise of Lagos was the gradual opening up of the interior both for missionary and business activity. The activities of the missionaries in the Abeokuta area were already extensive prior to the reduction of Lagos in 1861. The Rev. Townsend (agent of C.M.S.) and Mr. R. Cambell, (later of the Lagos Press) and Mr. Samuel Crowther Jnr. had all been seeking expanded roles for the missions and for the returning slaves in the Abeokuta area. Indeed both Christian and business pressures were behind the final decision of the British Government to support Akitoye and his Badagry allies against King Kosoko.

Rev. Townsend sought to secure trade rights on the coast for his Abeokuta supporters and therefore put pressure on the British Government to take strong measures against Kosoko and Lagos. In his view the policy of the "baser sort of people" in Lagos was to "shut up the people of the interior and to keep all markets in their own hands." Both Robb Campbell and Samuel Crowther Jnr. for their part worked hard at securing a treaty with the Alake of Abeokuta which would permit the settlement of New World negroes in Abeokuta. Though Campbell and Townsend were agreed on policy

and were subsequently to write petitions against each other, both tried to use the foothold in Abeokuta to determine policy in Lagos. Their activities in the Abeokuta hinterland and the prospect of intermediary trade between Abeokuta and Lagos led to an increase in the number of rescued or emancipated slaves from Sierra Leone, Brazil and Cuba who either desired or could be encouraged to return to their homes in Yorubaland. In his address of September 25, 1888 on the occasion of The Emancipation of Slaves from Brazil, the Governor of Lagos describes these "repatriates" as an "orderly, industrious, settled and highly respectable portion of the community and present generally praiseworthy examples as citizens"; the Government was already showing its recognition of their importance by setting apart for them "a district in this island, and many of the streets in Lagos, viz, Pedro St, Martin St, Bamghose St. etc., have been named after them." The Governors' figures gave some indication of their number:

1871	-	1237	(repatriates)
1881	-	2732	
1888	-	3221	

Whether they were repatriates from Brazil and the Americas, immigrants from Sierra Leone and Liberia or simply educated migrants from Egbaland, these men were a force in setting Lagos apart as the youngest and fastest growing community on the West Coast.

Most of these men were proficient in a trade; a good number had acquired an appreciably high standard of education and of cultural sophistication; almost all of them were Christians. They thus constituted themselves a unique community maintaining ties with the Yoruba homeland, and yet sharing a great deal with the small but prominent and prosperous expatriate community which, by 1881 according to the census of that year, numbered just one hundred and fifty, half of them English.

Mr. Ince obtained permission for this extract to be published. A second extract of the postal services will follow in CAMEO 10.

ST HELENA

VARIETIES ON THE 1922-36 BADGE ISSUE

ROGER B. WEST

During the last two months I have been collating information received in response to my 'standard letter' sent out to St Helena collectors. Details of these varieties are now listed below including several hitherto unrecorded flaws.

Stamp No.	Variety	Description
1	c	Chip out of left hand rock and break in lower double frame
2		Three lines of shading broken immediately above rock
3		Second line of shading broken 1mm from left
4		Vignette frame and top three lines of shading broken $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm from right.
4	a	($\frac{1}{2}$ d value only) Damage to left value tablet and broken 'P'
5	b	Bottom frame of vignette broken 1mm from left
7	ae	Half moon flaw above right value tablet
8	ef	Black mark on right hand scroll
13	e	Broken mast and rope broken on mizzen mast
18		White zig-zag flaw in water 1mm behind stern
20		Bottom frame of vignette broken $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm from left and thin at centre
24		Bottom frame of vignette broken twice
25		Break in 9th line of shading between rock and fore mast
26	b	Diagonal cut across main mast (between main yard and main top)
27		Right vignette frame dented inwards opposite 10th line of shading
28	b?	Mizzen mast broken above mizzen royal yard
28	b?	White dot on hull near waterline below fore mast
29		Scratch across three lines of shading in front of rock
30	b	Break in right frame of vignette between 1st & 2nd lines above water
31	b	Break in top line of water 1mm from right frame
32		11th line of shading broken to right of mizzen mast
33		Break in 12th line of shading between main and mizzen masts
33		Diagonal scratch in front of rock
33	e	Small dot to right of crown ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d & 3d value only)
39		Break in right frame opposite waterline
40	b	Break in 2nd line of shading below curve of medallion
40		Bottom frame line very thick
41	c	Top line of white on stern tilts upwards at right, touching edge of hull
41		Bottom frame line thick for 3mm below main mast
42	d	Torn flag and thickening of bottom frame beneath the hull
42	c	Torn flag repaired and thickening of bottom frame

Stamp No.	Variety
46	Right vignette frame broken at top between 3rd and 4th lines of shading
48	Break in left central vignette frame
49 b	Cleft in rock (previously known as the Seal's mouth flaw)
50	Break in 8th line of shading to right of rock
51 b	White patch on hull below deck to right of fore mast
52	Break in right vignette frame 4 lines above water level

Key to notations

- a = early printings only
- b = did not occur on early printings
- c = later printings only
- d = did not occur on later printings
- e = does not occur on all values
- f = part printing only (not known whether early or later)

It must be noted that the contents of this article are based on information received from fellow collectors. To make this point clearer, it would be nice to know which values each of the above varieties occur on, and this may lead to finding out when each variety first appeared.

In addition to the constant varieties, certain other flaws have been noted but their sheet positions are unknown. It is believed they are constant however as several copies of each have been noted. Any information relating to these queries would be gratefully received.

- Break in top vignette frame slightly right of rock ($1\frac{1}{2}d$ & $2d$)
- Vignette frame broken at right level with top of flag pole ($\frac{1}{2}d$, $1d$ & $3d$)
- Damage to bottom vignette frame just above the 'N' ($\frac{1}{2}d$ & $8d$)
- Bottom vignette frame broken above 'A' ($4d \times 2$)
- Missing shading on base of neck and weakness to rigging ($6d$)
- Break in frame under 'N' ($1\frac{1}{2}d$)
- Break in frame at base of King's head ($1\frac{1}{2}d$)
- Top vignette frame broken 1mm from left
- Vignette frame and top 3 lines of shading broken $1\frac{1}{2}mm$ from left

Any comments please to Roger B. West, 29 Godfrey Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex.

(01-845 7930).

ST HELENA - PRICES REALISED - RECORDED BY ROGER B. WEST

Quite a small gathering assembled for the afternoon session of the BWA specialised sale. This session was devoted to Sierra Leone, Southern Nigeria, Togo and 104 lots of St Helena. Despite the small attendance the bidding was generally competitive, and some prices realised were nothing short of staggering. The first item appropriately set the mood for the entire session; this being...

Lot 1354 A number of stamps entitled "Existing and Proposed Schemes of Colours" for the 1883 QV issues. Estimate £400, starting bid £325 and £2,700 realised.

Lot 1335 1893 2½d plate proof. Est £200, realised £850.

Lots 1356/59 1883 overprinted Specimen or Cancelled, Est £125, 80, & 75 realised £550, 650, 650 & 550 respectively.

Some of the other more outstanding lots were....

Lot 1368 1889 essay of 1d St Vincent optd THREE HALFPENCE. Est £150 realised £600.

Lot 1370 1½d QV Key Plate in red and blue. Est £300 realised £1800 (PHOTO).

Lots 1375/6 Two delightful essays of 1894 Badge of Colony (small format) fetched £900 and £1,600 - both estimated at £400 each.

Lot 1377 1901 1d essay Est £400, fetched £1,400 (PHOTO)

Lot 1378 Similar essay est £300, fetched £1,500.

Lots 1407/24 The 1912 GV Issue is apparently not a particularly popular one. Die proofs and Specimens mostly went under the hammer at prices below estimates.

Lots 1425/50 The 1922-36 Badge Issue attracted a lot more interest. Essays estimated at £400/500 realised between £1,200 and £1,600. Die proofs went for prices close to estimates except lot 1436 (18 values to £1) Estimated at £600 and realised £1,600.

The Colour Trials (lots 1438/40) went for 2 or 3 times estimate, but the Specimens barely made it. The set to £1 fetched £34 and the set to 15/- sold for £105.

The issued stamps £1 and 15/- both sold for above market prices, £180 and £360 respectively (plus tax) but lot 1446 (Torn Flag and Cleft Rocks) and lot 1448 (Broken Mast) both estimated at £40 fetched £180 and £240 respectively.

All in all, the prices reflect the popularity of this Colony and point out that the market value is dependant upon what a collector will pay and not what an auctioneer thinks he'll pay. This fact is more apparent on several lots where the commission charge is higher than the original valuation.



Lot 1370
Estimate £300
Realised £1,800



Lot 1377
Estimate £400
Realised £1,400



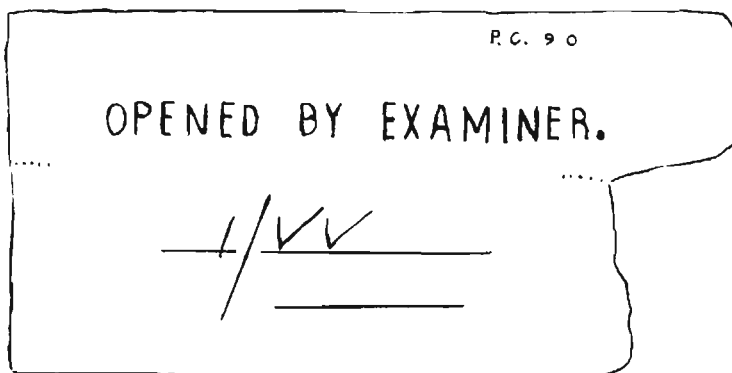
Lot 1425 Estimate £150 Realised £450

THE 1942 BRITISH EMPIRE DOUBLE LETTERCENSOR CODE - ST. HELENAJ.J. MARTIN

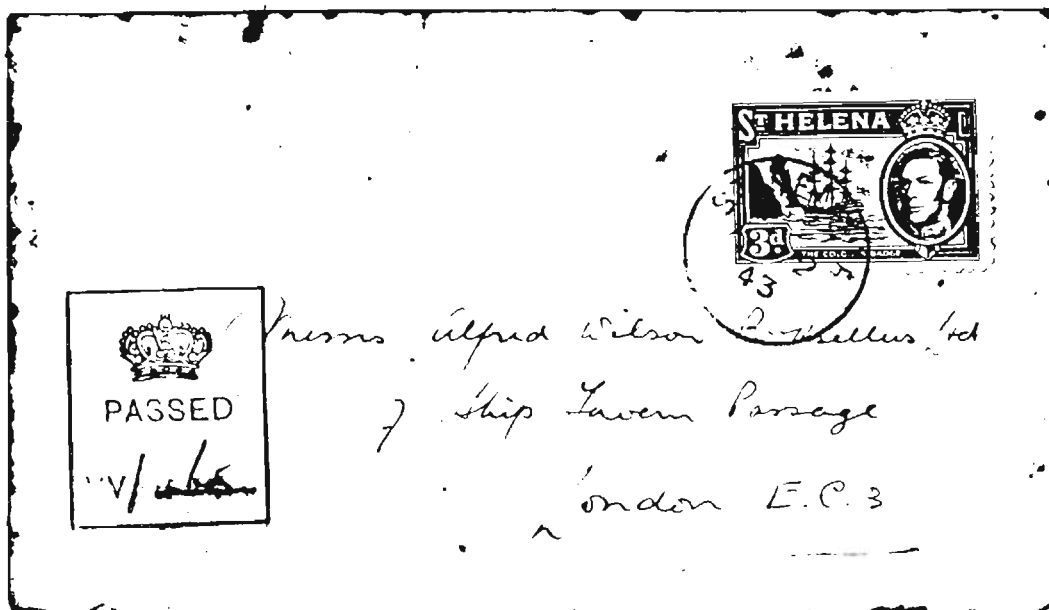
The May 1976 issue of The Philatelist contained a fascinating article by Mr. A.R. Torrance, Secretary of the Civil Censorship Study Group, on civilian censorship during the Second World War. Included in the article was a listing of Double Letter Codes and countries to which they were allocated.

The writer noticed that St. Helena was not included in the list and also that "VV" had not been allocated. Immediately above, TT was given to St. Lucia and UU to St. Vincent.

I searched through Dealers' stocks of St. Helena and came across one censored cover with a "P.C. 90 OPENED BY EXAMINER" printed seal and, on the reverse of the cover, part of the seal had been completed in manuscript. The back of the cover indicated that the writer was L. Young of Peak Dale, St. Helena.



This was not definite proof. Next, I contacted Mr. E. Hibbert, the St. Helena editor. He checked his 1939/1945 covers and found one with a violet rectangular censor cachet enclosing a crown over "VV..." as shown in the illustration.



The envelope has on the back the embossed seal of the Eastern Telegraph Company Limited and is endorsed in manuscript "From W.D. Donaldson - St. Helena, S. Atlantic."

Mr. Hibbert made the point that the censor cachet could have been used on ships between South Africa and England but it does seem more likely that "VV" can now be allocated to St. Helena.

P.S. This was written before Dann Mayo published his book on WW II Civil Censorship devices which was mentioned in the editorial in CAMEO 8.
