

# THE NIGERIAS - 1855 to 1901

(Incorporating: Lagos, Oil Rivers, Niger Coast Protectorate,  
Niger Company Territories, Northern & Southern Nigeria)

The exhibit shows a balanced cross-section of the stamps and postal history of this Colony through the dates and areas specified.

It should be remembered that although the Colony covered a huge area, it was very sparsely populated with Europeans. Lagos, for example, had only 16 white inhabitants in 1854, the same date of the cover on the following page. These 16 persons were comprised of Italian, Brazilian, German and British. The European population did grow, but this growth was slow, and by 1900 the European community in Lagos was still only around the 200 mark.

This sparse European habitation was not just confined to Lagos, in fact Lagos was had a far larger European population than other towns and settlements elsewhere in the Colony.

This limited population consequently resulted in a comparatively small postal use. This has resulted in a general scarcity of material so that, the Nigerias, have never become an area for a large number of major philatelists. The Ince & Sacher book on the subject will do much to extend the interest in the subject and it is perhaps interesting to note that photographs of over sixty items from this exhibit, with many references to other items, appear in the publication.

Frame 1 shows a largely postal history exhibit of Lagos in the pre-stamp period, with an example of how one Italian slave trader did not use the word slave in his letters, but used a code name instead!

Frames 2 & 3 continue the Lagos story and give a comprehensive showing of proof material, stamps and postal history. Sometimes basic sets have tended to be excluded in favour of more interesting pieces.

Frame 4 begins with the Oil Rivers and shows the use of the Great Britain Jubilee overprints and the various Provisional issues that were required as a result of stamp shortages. Frame 4 continues with a wide range of Niger Coast Protectorate items and several complete sheets. Again this territory experienced stamp shortages which again required the issue of Provisionals on several occasions.

Frame 5 completes Niger Coast Protectorate and continues with some unusual items from The Niger Company Territories and how the postal services were managed even if no stamps were available. Frame 5 concludes with a brief selection from Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria.

## LAGOS

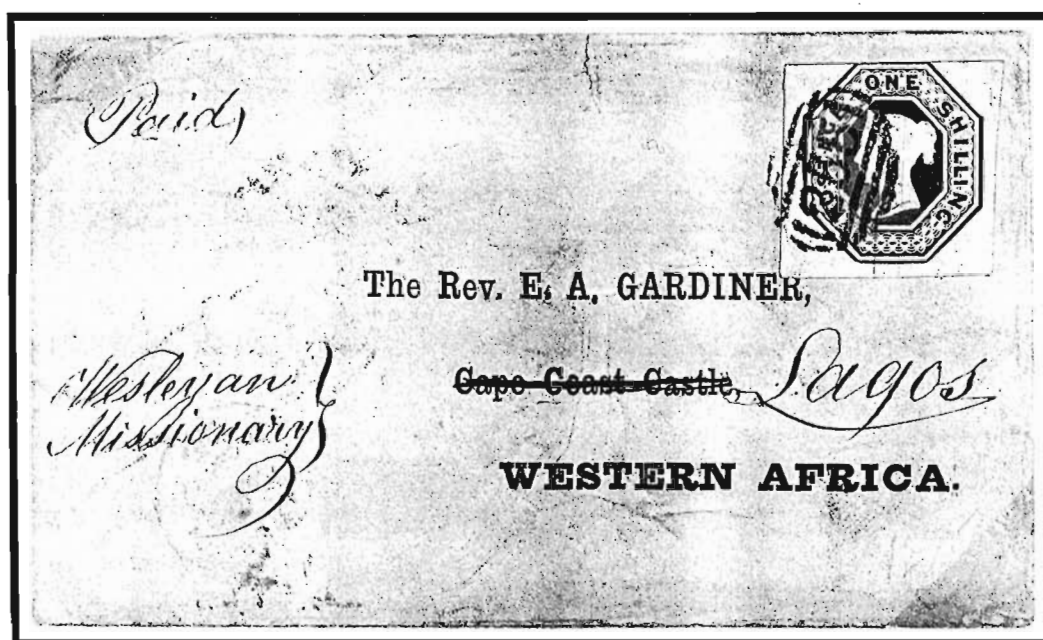
### 1855 - EARLIEST RECORDED MAIL INTO LAGOS

Period prior to British Occupation in 1861

Doncaster to Cape Coast Castle & redirected to Lagos

Backstamped Doncaster 22 October 1855,  
London 23 & Plymouth 24 October 1855.

Embossed one shilling tied by small Doncaster barred numeral - 255,  
the rate for letters not exceeding a half ounce between 1855 & 1859



There are no West African markings as the first Lagos handstamps were registered at the G.P.O. in London on 19 February 1859

The Rev. Gardiner had been sent to Cape Coast Castle in 1851 to head the Wesleyan Mission but was moved to Lagos in 1853 following the death of the Methodist Agent - John Martin.

At this time Lagos had 16 white inhabitants consisting of Italian, Brazilian, German & British.

The European community in Lagos grew to about 200 by 1900.

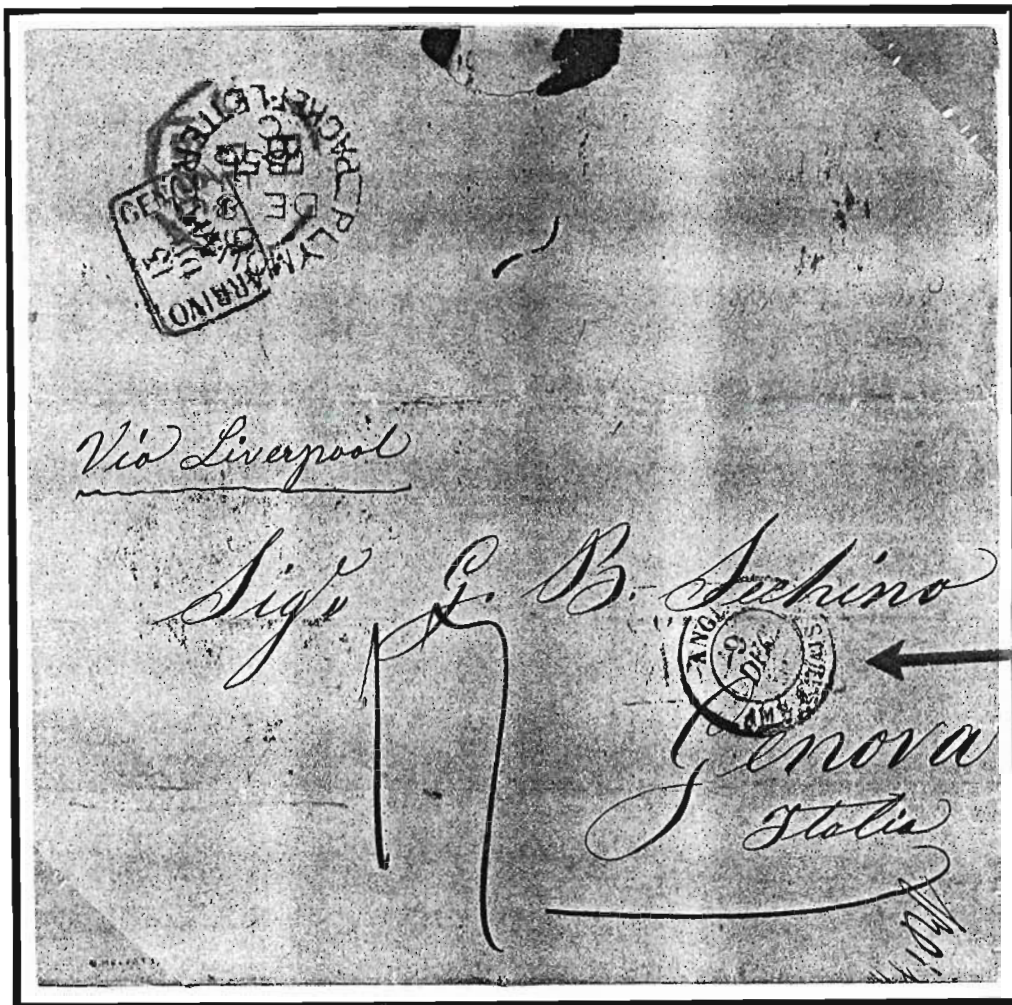
# LAGOS

1856 - LAGOS TO GENOA - "COLONIES/ART-18"

Lagos 6 November 1856 arriving Genoa 13 December 1856

Text is headed "Per Gambia" with "Via Liverpool" on front  
but it still went via Plymouth on 8 December 1856

Faint boxed "Colonies/Art 18" appears under Calais double circle



The "17" Accountancy marking was applied in France and shows that the French share of the postage was 17 Decimes.

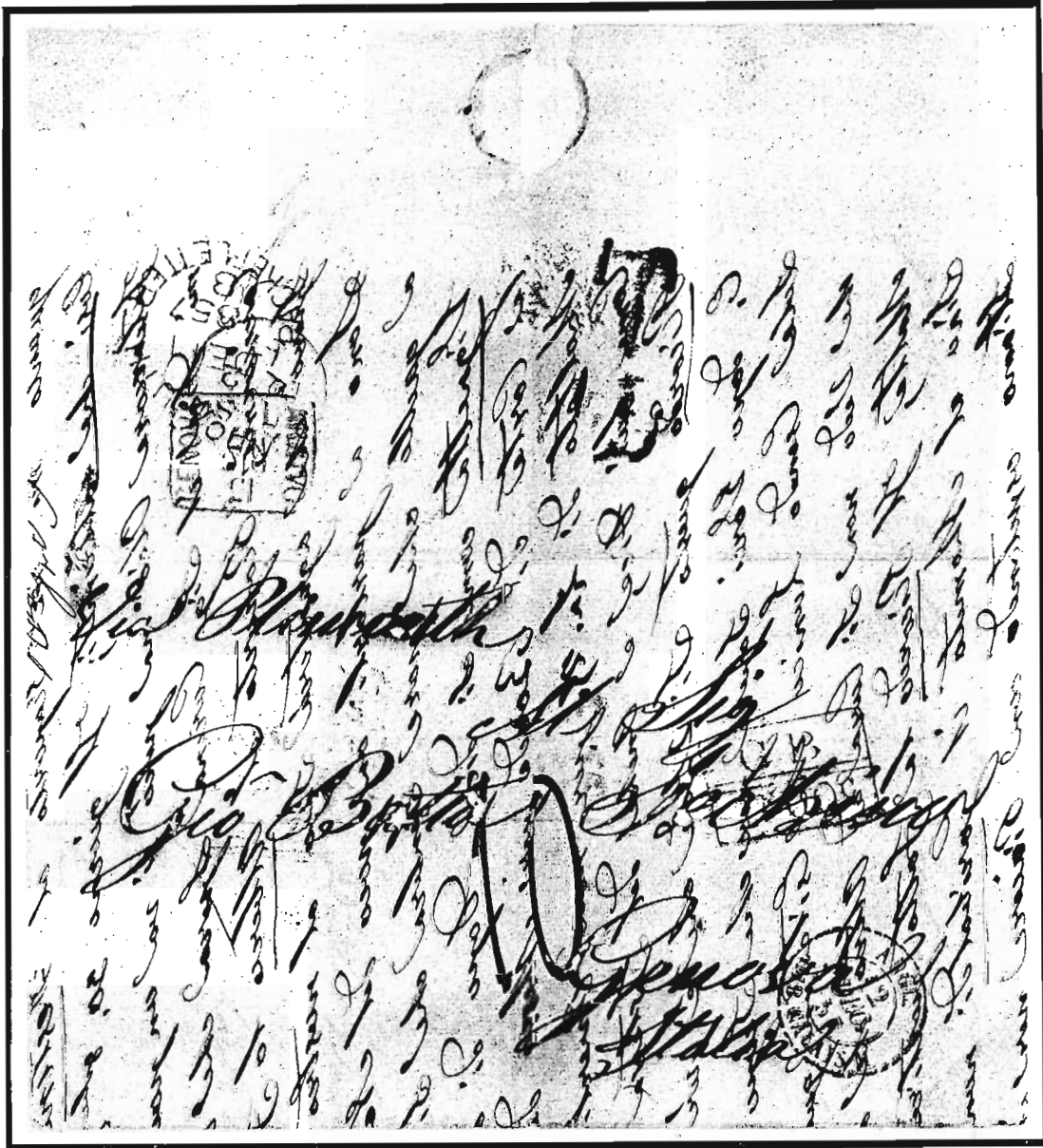
The letter was written by E. Pittaluga, an Italian trader, concerning goods that arrived damaged and had to be auctioned off at a loss.

# LAGOS

1857 - LAGOS TO GENOA - "GB/1f 60c"

Lagos 5 September 1857, arriving Genoa 13 December 1857  
via Plymouth 11th & London 12 December 1857

Letter refers to the problems of timber exports and the unhelpful attitude of the Sardinian Consul. "Timber" was probably a code name for Slaves, as timber was not exported in 1857!



The black "GB/1f 60c" was unusual for Lagos correspondence

The manuscript "10" shows a rate change from the earlier "17" and denotes that the French postal share was 10 decimes.

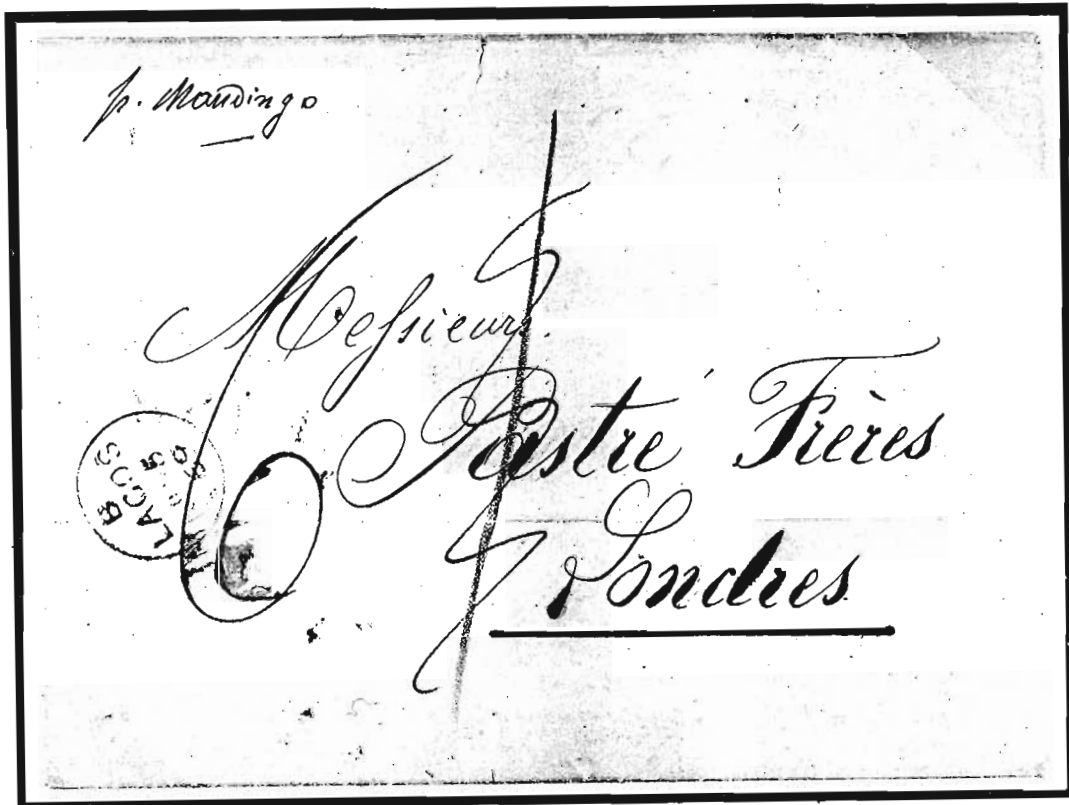
The Calais transit strike "...CALAIS M" is noteworthy as the letter "M" is previously unrecorded on West African mail.

## LAGOS

1869 - "B" OVER LAGOS - DATESTAMP

Pre-Adhesive period under British Occupation - 1861 - 1874

Lagos 5 June 1869 to London, arriving 30 June 1869.



Blue accountancy mark "1" cancelled in black ink & black manuscript "6" added

This shows the letter had been rated as a one shilling item weighing between a half & one ounce, but adjusted downwards as an item under a half ounce.

As the "Mandingo" was not normally a packet letter carrier, the postage would have been shared 50/50 - 3d to the U.K. & 3d to the Colony.

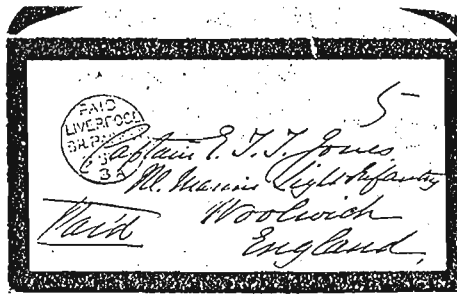
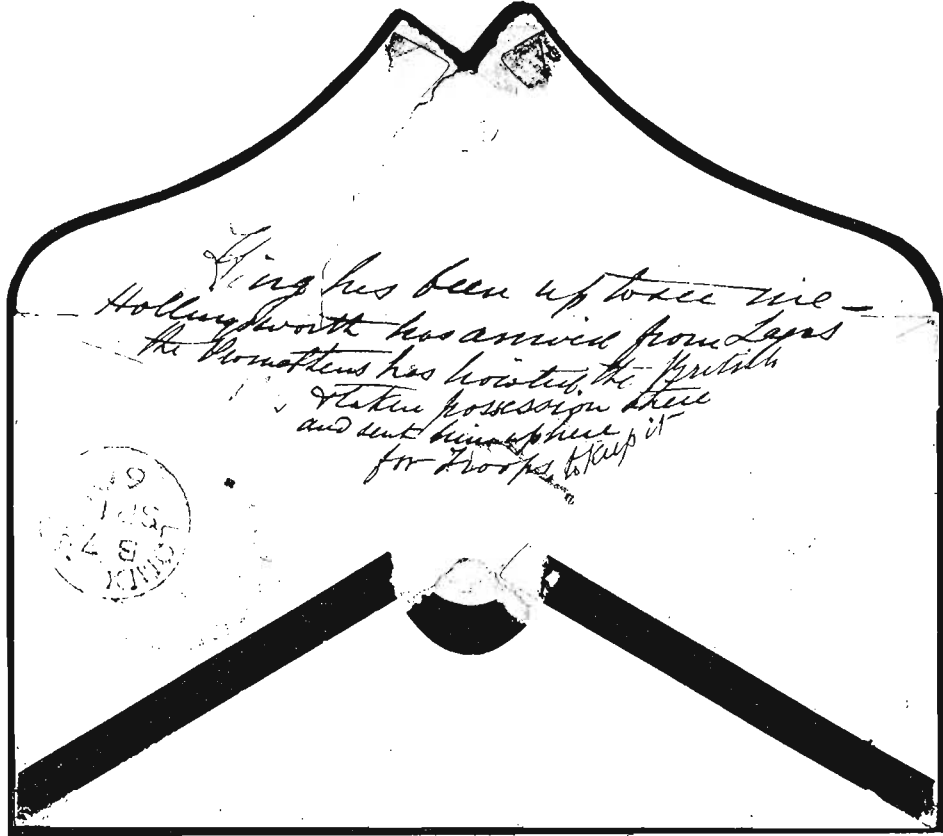
# LAGOS

## 1867 BRITISH ANNEXATION - OCCUPATION NEWS

Sierra Leone 21 August 1861 to Woolwich, arriving 10 September 1861

The message on flap was probably the first such private news to reach England:

"King has been up to see me - Hollingsworth has arrived from Lagos -  
The Prometheus has hoisted the British Flag and taken possession  
there and sent him up here for troops to keep it"



HMS Prometheus was a paddle sloop of 800 tons, 200hp with five guns, which arrived at Lagos on 26 July 1861. On 30 July 1861, her Captain, Bedingfield, informed Oba Docemo, the then Ruler, that Her Majesty's Government had decided upon permanent occupation of his Kingdom.

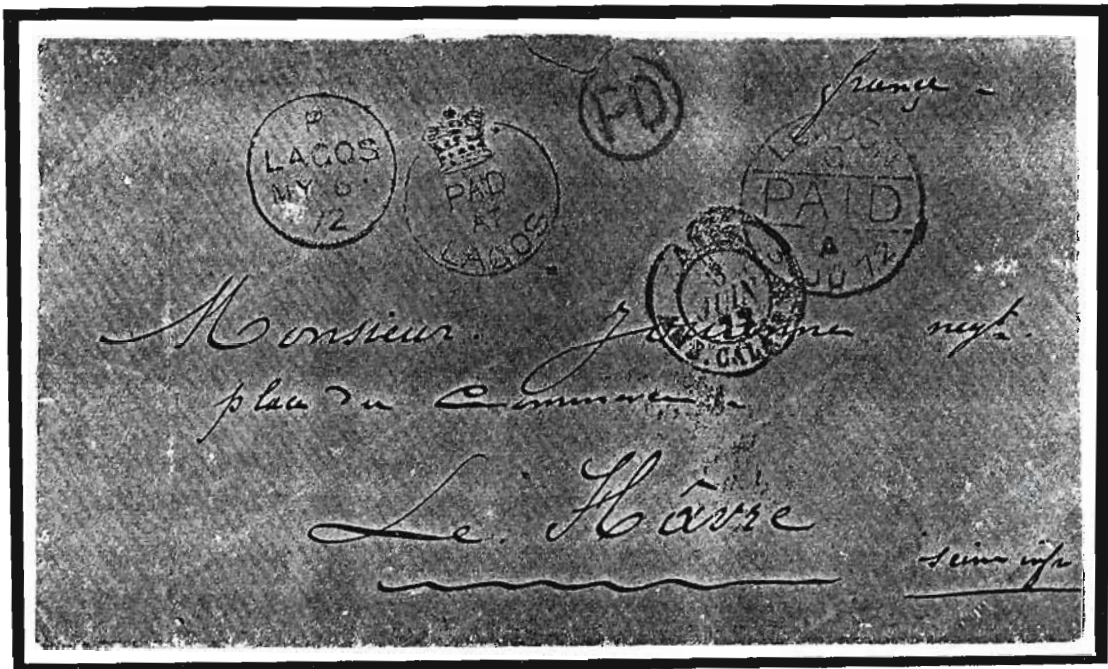
Bedingfield ended his report of the occupation stating that his ship could not leave Lagos until the arrival of a detachment of black troops requested from the War Department. About a week later, Bedingfield sent his Senior Lieutenant, Hollinworth (correct spelling) to Sierra Leone to expedite this troop dispatch.

# LAGOS

1872 - CROWNED CIRCLE - "PAID AT LAGOS"

Lagos 6 May 1872 to Le Havre,  
arriving 4 June 1872

Via London, Calais & Paris - all dated 3 June 1872



Cover with "Crowned Circle" and "B over Lagos" datestamp,  
also a red "PD" - paid to destination.

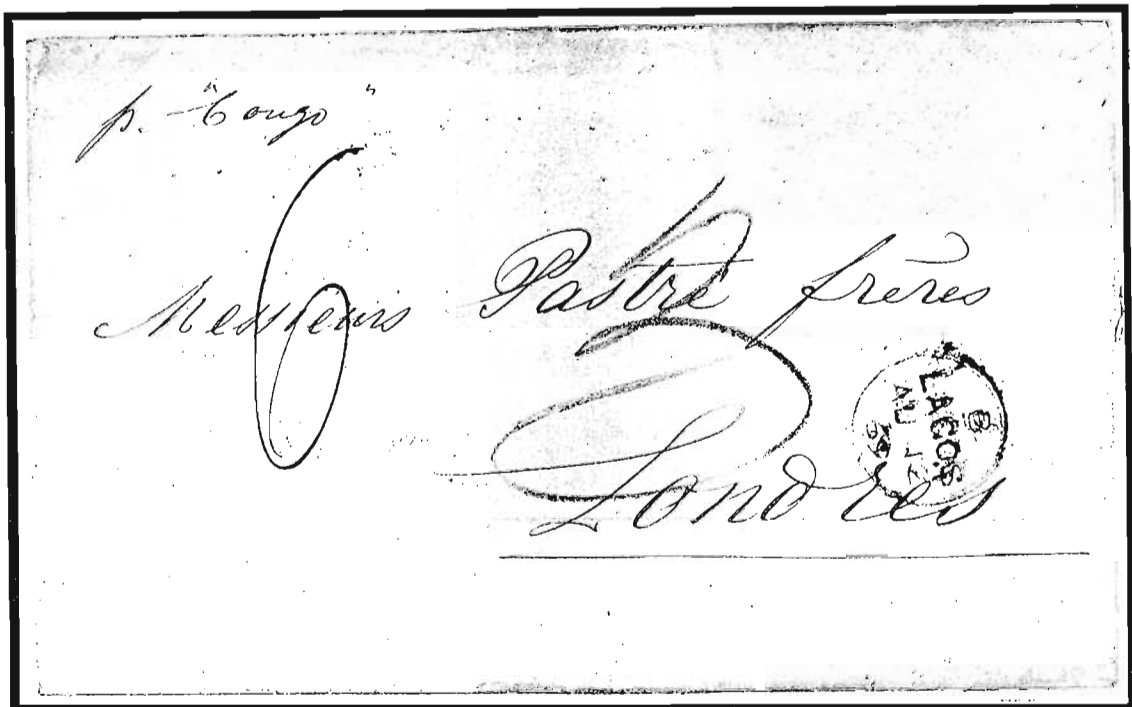
Postal charges were 1s 6d per red manuscript accountancy marking,  
being 1s for a 1oz letter & a 6d Forwarding Fee from England to France.

# LAGOS

1869 - PRIVATE SHIP MAIL

Lagos - 12 August 1869  
Arriving London 9 September 1869

Carried by a Private Ship - "S.S. Congo"  
which was not an approved letter carrier



Black "6" & Blue "3" accountancy markings

The accountancy marks indicate a postal charge of 6d  
and that the weight did not exceed a half ounce

Being a Private Ship the postal charges were shared equally,  
in this case, 3d to the U.K. and 3d to the Colony.

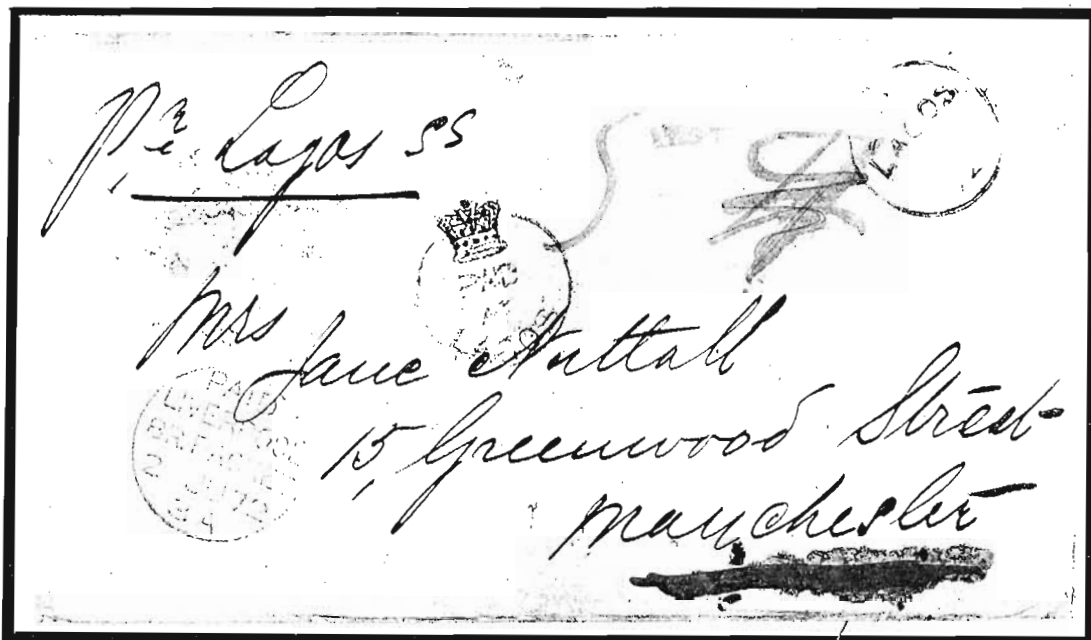
Mail on Packet boats would have been split 5:1 in favour of the U.K.

# LAGOS

1872 - BRITISH PACKET MAIL

April 1872 - Lagos to Manchester

via Liverpool, arriving Manchester 3 June 1872



Black Lagos Crowned Circle and red manuscript "5".

The "5" denotes it was a half ounce letter for which the postal rate was 6d. British Packet Boats claimed 5d for the U.K. denoted by the red "5".

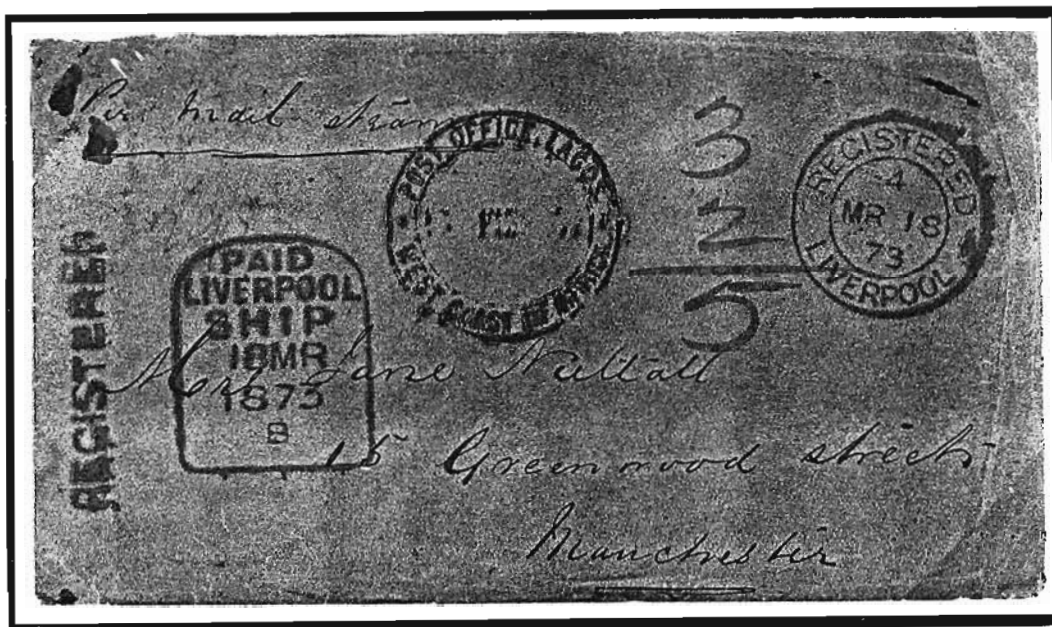
The letter was carried by the s.s.Lagos, a ship of 1,199 tons, belonging to the African Steamship Company and built in 1865.

## LAGOS

1873 - "POST OFFICE LAGOS - WEST COAST OF AFRICA" - DATESTAMP

Lagos 10 February 1873 to Manchester arriving 18 March 1873

Apart from the Double Circle "Post Office Lagos" strike the postmarks include: the red "Paid Liverpool Ship" Tombstone, straight line red registered & red "Registered Manchester" on reverse.



The accountancy markings "3 + 2 = 5" indicate that the letter was carried on a non-contracted ship. In this case half the 6d postage and half of the 4d registration fee were due to the U.K.

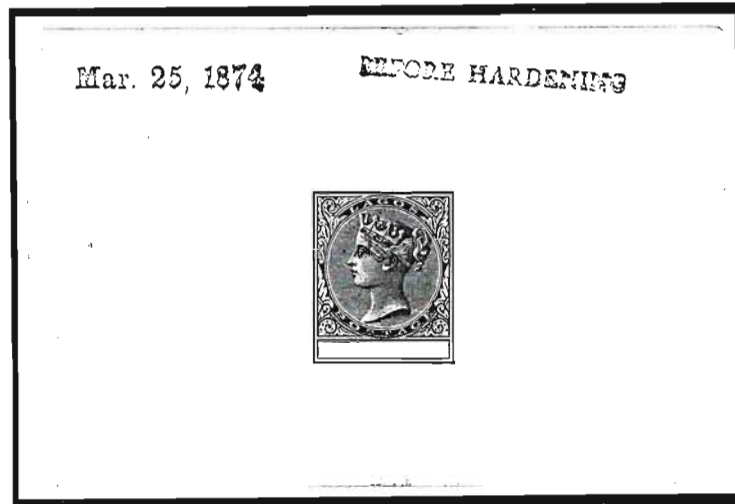
By British Packet Boat the computation would have read  $5 + 2 = 7$  as 5d of the 6d postage & 2d of the 4d registration would have accrued to U.K.

The Lagos double circle datestamp was made to the order of J.B. Carrol who was Lagos Acting Postmaster at the end of the 1860s.

# LAGOS

1874 - DE LA RUE DIE PROOFS FOR THE FIRST STAMP ISSUE

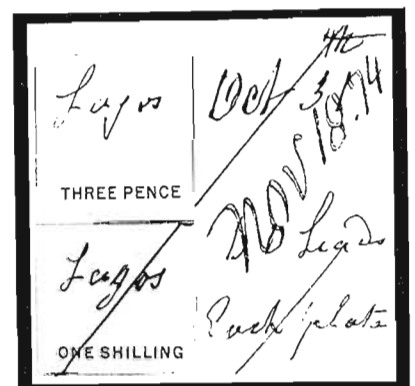
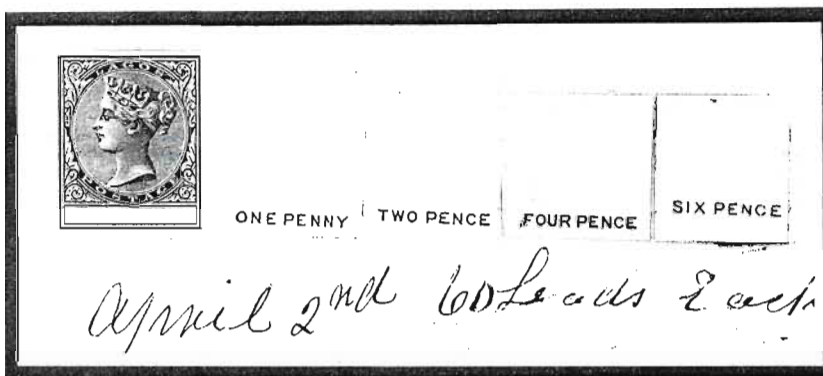
25 March 1874 - The Master Die Proof



Master Die Proof (cut down) with Duty Plates for the 1d, 2d, 4d & 6d values.

The first dispatch was sent to the Colony on 12 May 1874 & an official notice from the "The Secretary's Office, Lagos" dated 10 June 1874 reads:

"The supply of stamps for the sixpence, fourpence, twopence & one penny having been received for the use of this Settlement; Notice is hereby given that no letters will be received for transmission at the Post Office unless duly stamped".



The delivery of the 3d and one shilling values followed late in 1874.

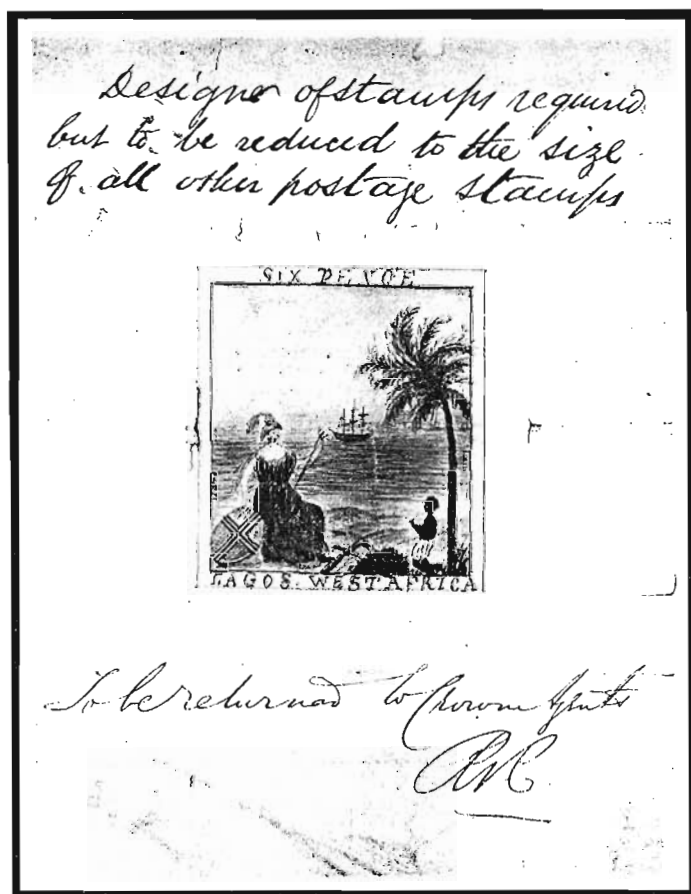
From the Duty Plate Proofs above, the "ONE SHILLING" measures 16.5mm & there is a serif to the "G". This piece proves that the shilling value tablet measuring 16.5mm was prepared before the 16mm sub-type which some reference books call the earlier issue.

# LAGOS

## 1868? - EARLY UNADOPTED ESSAY

A watercolour essay for a 6d stamp, being the ship letter rate for letters under a half ounce. This was submitted to De La Rue, possibly in 1868, by the Crown Agents who may have received it from the Lagos Postmaster.

The design was no doubt inspired by the then current Liberian stamps. It shows Britannia seated on a headland with a three masted schooner lying out at sea. An African child is kneeling at the foot of a palm tree in front of a pile of ivory and other local products.



The upper frame shows the value "SIXPENCE" with "LAGOS WEST AFRICA" in the lower frame. The manuscript reads: "Design of stamp required but to be reduced to the size of all other postage stamps. To be returned to Crown Agents. R.V.C."

It is possible that the design dates from about 1861, after annexation, because Sierra Leone had at that time only a 6d stamp in issue. Also there is a Sierra Leone resemblance to their Coat of Arms which has a seated Britannia, a kneeling negro, a schooner and a palm tree!

# LAGOS

## 1877 - THE "L IN DIAMOND" OBLITERATOR

Combined use of the the killer strike "L in Diamond" and  
the circular datestamp "Lagos over A"

Lagos 2 May 1877 to London arriving 3 June 1877,  
via Liverpool 2 June 1877.



6d half ounce rate split 5d British, per red manuscript "5",  
and 1d to the Colony.

This rate remained in use until 31 December 1878.

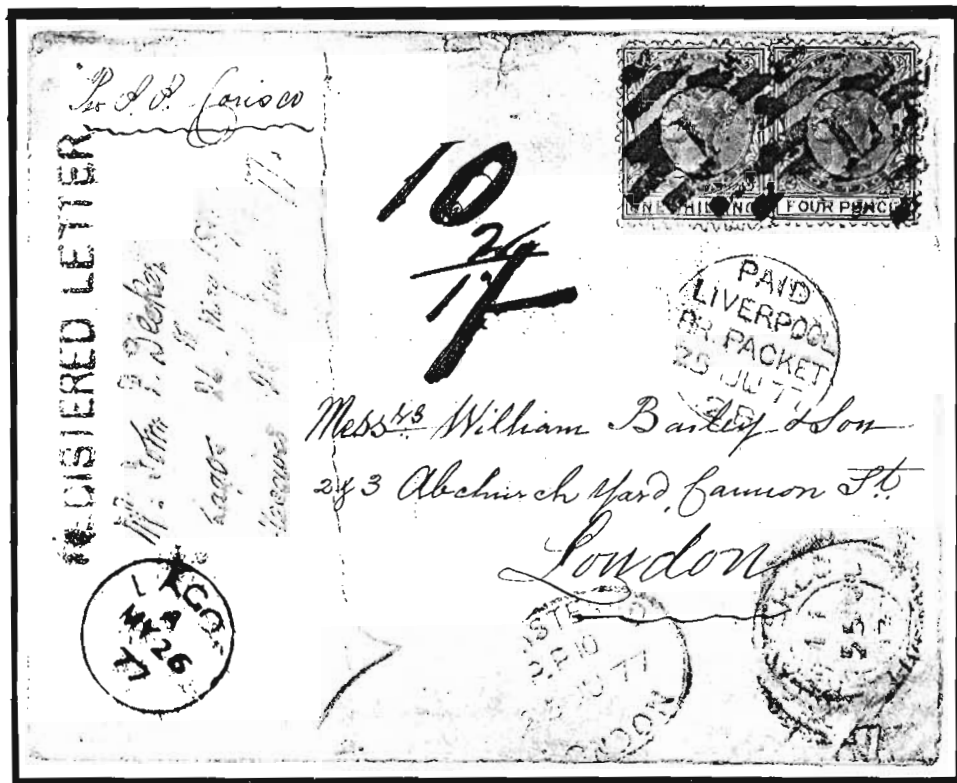
Letter was carried by ss Ethiopia, a ship of 1761 tons and built  
in 1873. It was wrecked off Loango on 28 July 1882.

# LAGOS

## 1877 - "REGISTERED LETTER" HANDSTAMP

Letter with straight line "REGISTERED LETTER" handstamp in brownish red of which very few are recorded.

Lagos 26 May 1877 to London arriving 25 June 1877 via Liverpool 25 June 1877.



Postal charge of 1s 4d comprises 6d per half ounce, (5d British 1d Colonial) = 1s for 1oz letter plus a registration fee of 4d (2d British 2d Colonial).

The red accountancy markings of 10 + 2 = 1s mean the British share was 10d for postage & 2d for registration, making one shilling due.

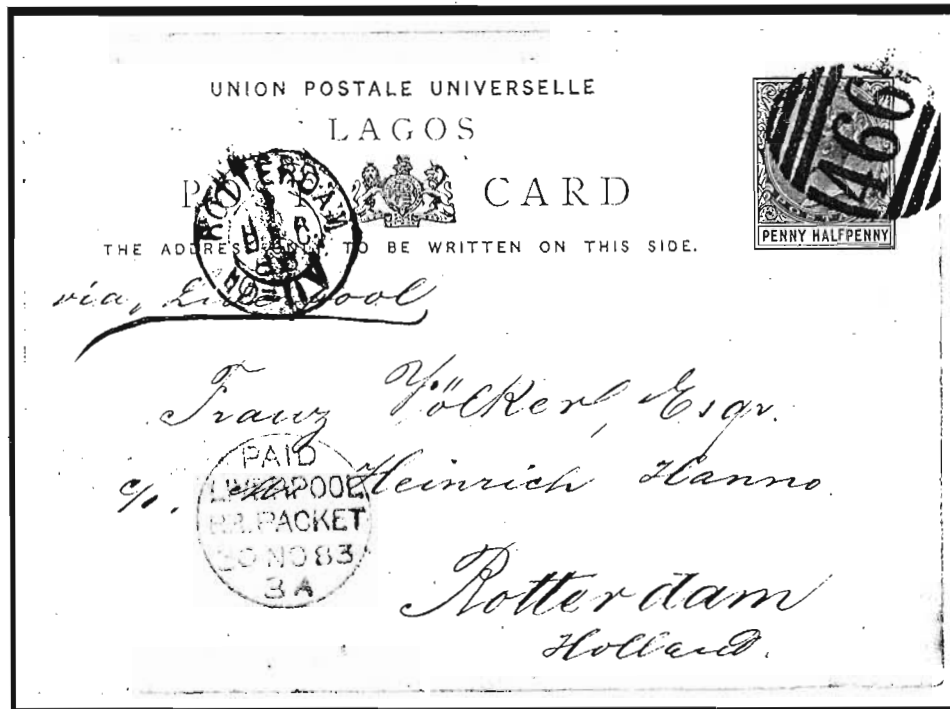
# LAGOS

## THE FIRST POSTAL STATIONERY

First issued in September 1879

28 October 1883 - Whydah, Dahomey to Rotterdam,  
arriving Rotterdam 1 December 1883.

Routed via Liverpool where the card was cancelled  
by a Liverpool "466".



Whereas the card is written from Whydah, it presumably reached Lagos by land after which it was posted in the normal manner.

Few of this first issue of postal stationery cards are recorded used.

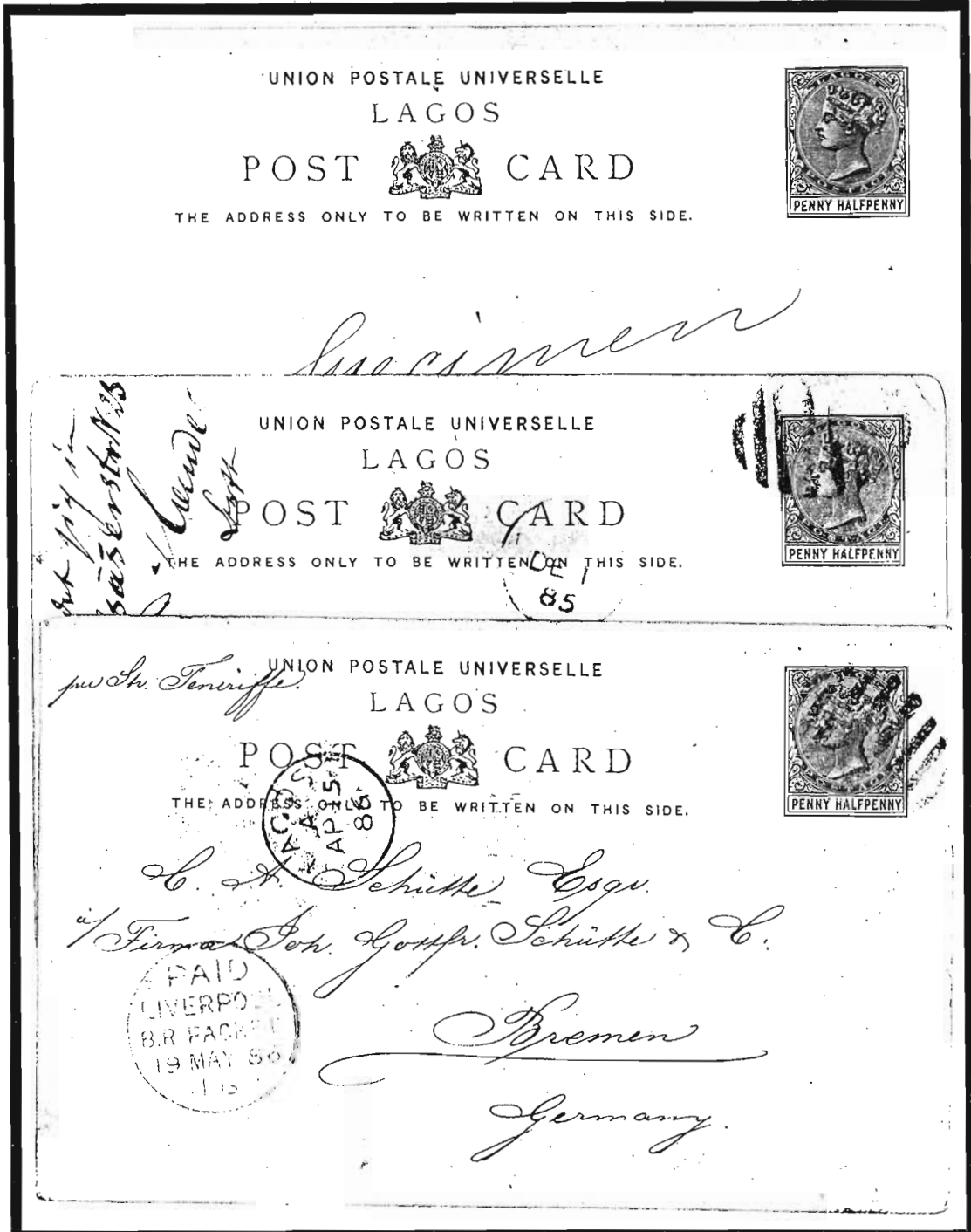
This first issue is considerably smaller than subsequent printings.

# LAGOS

## THE SECOND POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUE - 10 MAY 1883

The top card is the Specimen ex De La Rue.

The colour of the Specimen is darker and the size slightly larger than the issued card.



These post cards were unpopular with the public initially and it took some years for their use to become acceptable.

# LAGOS

1884 - New values, colours & watermark

Imperforate colour proofs of the new 6d colour & value tablet,  
also the colour poof for the new 4d - pale violet

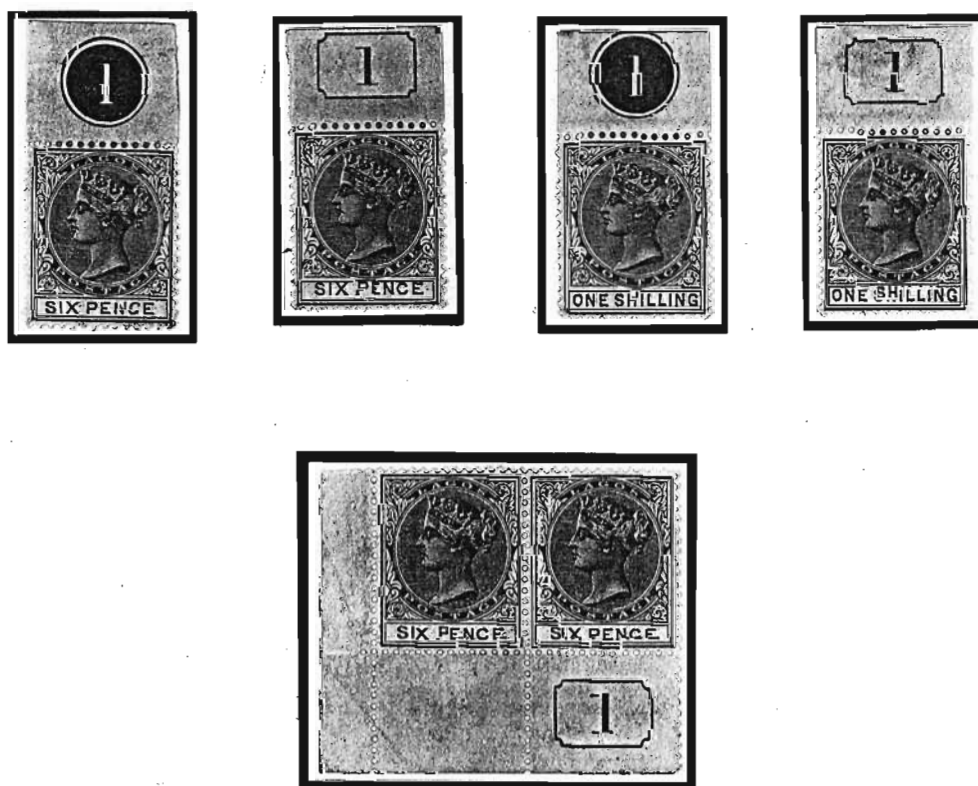


1884 - 1886 Plate numbers & current numbers

This set was issued in sheets of 60 (6x10) with watermark Crown CA.

Plate numbers appeared over stamp no.2 & under stamp no.59.

Current numbers, contained in a rectangle with voided corners,  
indicated the order of laying down printing plates.

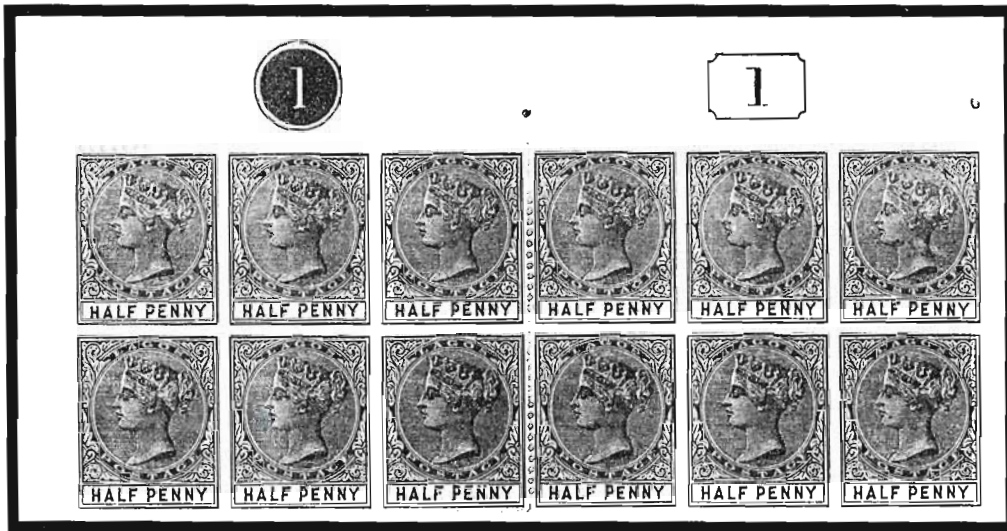


The Current Number system was discontinued in the mid 1890s,  
after which only the Plate numbers appeared in all four corners.

# LAGOS

1885 - 1902 Halfpenny & 1884 - 1902 Penny: Plate & Current Numbers

The block of twelve demonstrates the layout of the sheet (6x10) and the position of the Plate & Current numbers.

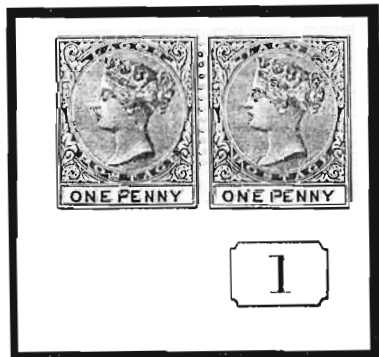


The left hand pair of the 1d below shows the position of the Current Number on the bottom row, below stamp no: 56.

The introduction of Plate 2, required due to wear problems on Plate 1.

Plate 2 was first used by the end of 1900.

Plate 2 also saw the simultaneous introduction of the Jubilee Line.



The Plate plug 2 on the halfpenny above is the only Plate 2 plug recorded on this value and has a nick in the Jubilee line.

The right hand pair of the 1d, Plate 2, is interesting because it shows reversed margin perforations in that the lower margin is not perforated.

# LAGOS

1887 - 1902 Plate & Current Numbers & New Colours

The second 6d value comes from Plate 2 and has the value tablet in the new carmine colour as opposed to the previous mauve.

Note the reversed perforation of the 7.5d. Normally the sheets had the top margin imperforate and the bottom margin perforated.

This practice was reversed for the Edwardian issues.

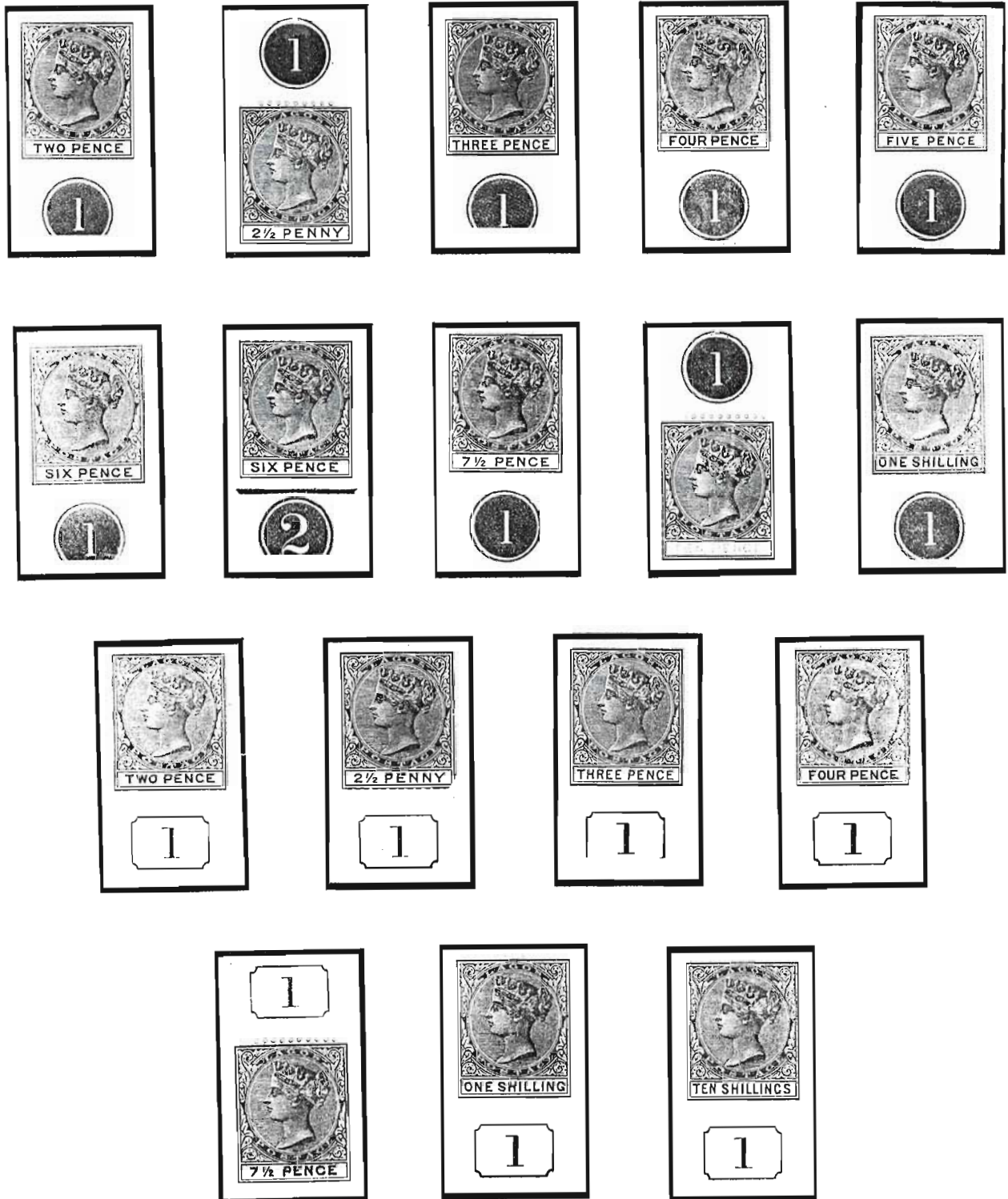
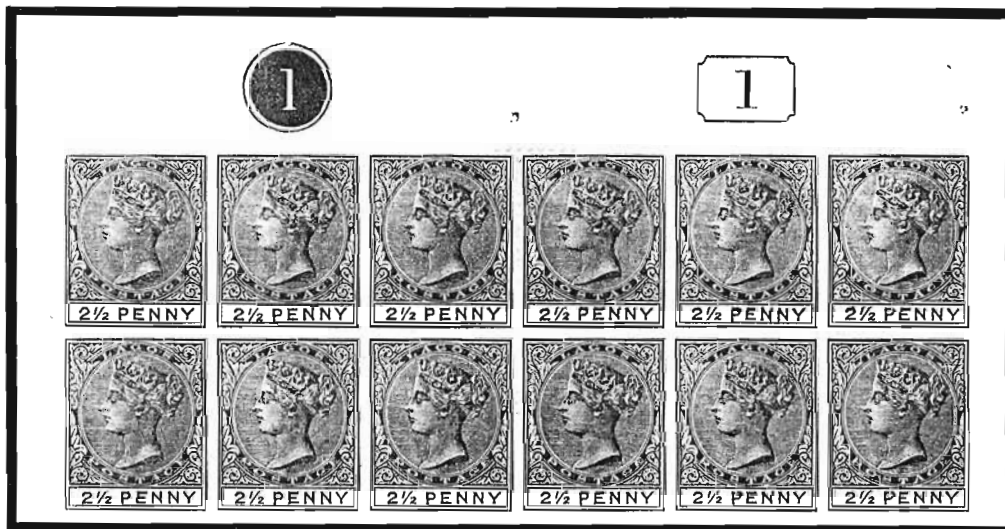


Plate 2 was only used for the halfpenny, penny & sixpenny.

Note the reversed perforation on the 10s which shows the bottom margin imperforate.

# LAGOS

1887 - 1902 High Value Plate & Current Numbers with New Colours



The 2.5d value was not issued until 1891

# LAGOS

1882 - 1887 The De La Rue Manuscript "Specimen" stamps

This set is one of two surviving sets with manuscript "Specimen", which originated from the sample books of De La Rue salesmen, many of which were destroyed during the blitz of World War II.



1886 High values overprinted "SPECIMEN"

According to Easton, these stamps were not required for postage, but for use by the Registrar of the Court for payment of fees.



The above three high values were actually issued to UPU member countries concurrently with the seven values of the 1887 set as shown below.



This 1887 set was the first produced in doubly fugitive inks.

# LAGOS

1886-1887 - New Colour Scheme

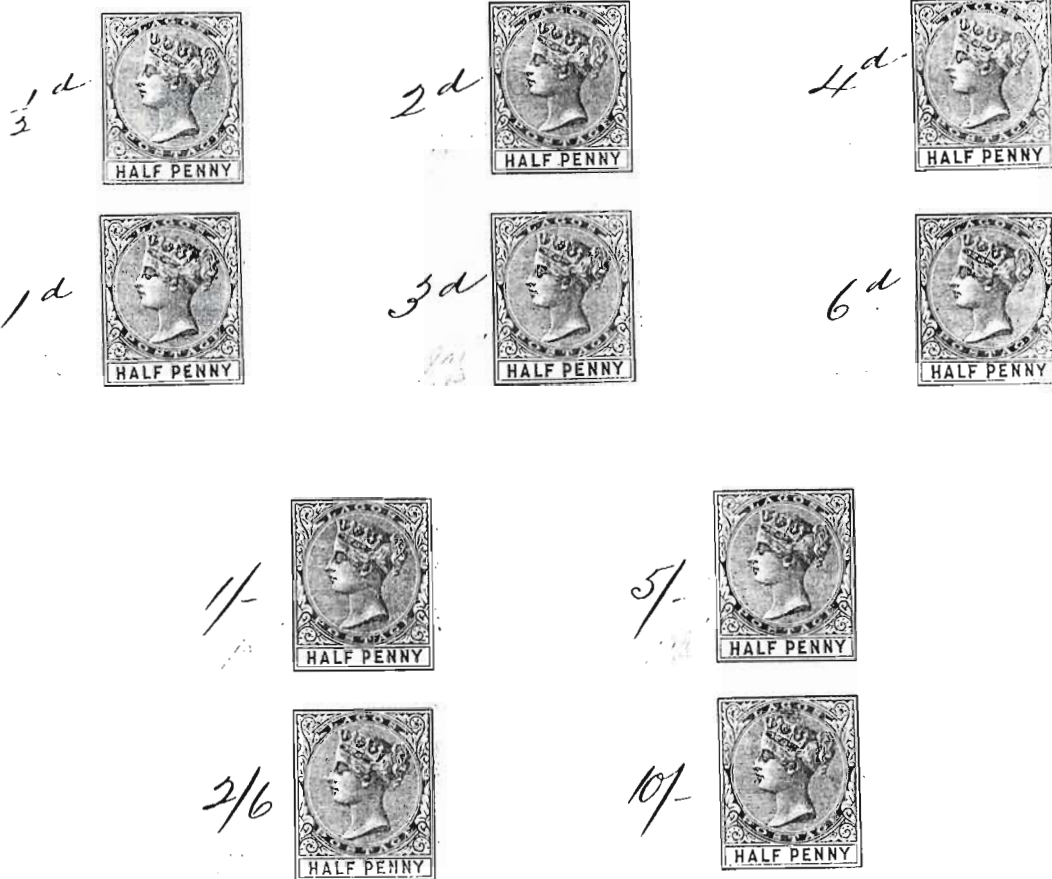
Unwatermarked colour trials showing the basic mauve or green background and suggested colours for the value tablets. These were all approved except the halfpenny and penny, which did not comply with U.P.U. regulations, and the shilling was not accepted as it clashed with the halfpenny green.

Eventually the previous colours were kept for the halfpenny & penny, and the shilling was given a black value tablet.

## Appendix

Aug. 28. 86

*Scheme showing how the Lagos Postage Stamps could be printed in 'Doubly Fugitive' inks, and overprinted in different coloured 'Singly Fugitive' inks to distinguish duties.*



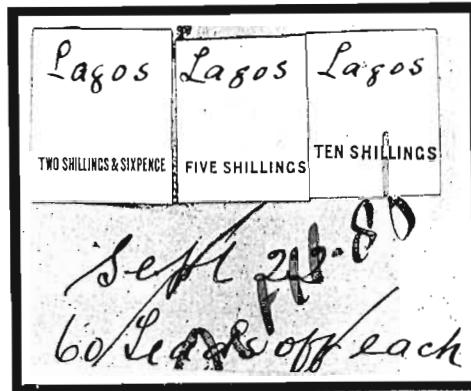
Due to the revised postal rates, three new values were added to the set:  
2.5d - ultramarine, 5d - mauve & green, 7.5d - mauve & carmine  
and the 10d - mauve and yellow.

The final colours were approved on 14 February 1887.

# LAGOS

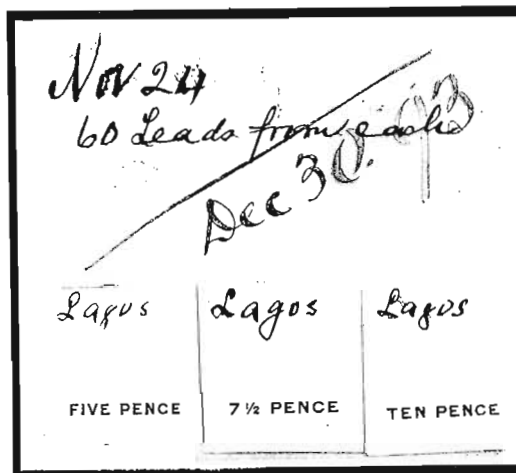
1887 - 1902 De La Rue Die Proofs

The 2s 6d, 5s & 10s Die Proofs

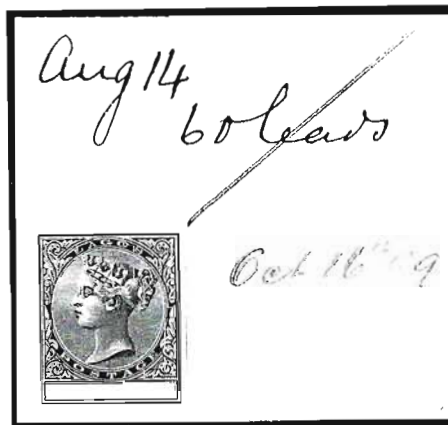


Completed job was invoiced on 11 October 1886 but the first dispatch did not take place for over four more months.

5d, 7.5d & 10d Die Proofs of the value tablets.



Queen Victoria replacement Master Die Proof  
De La Rue reported on 1 June 1899 that the Lagos keyplate had worn out as it had produced 68,000 impressions.



The new die was agreed on 11.8.1899 & invoiced as "No.2" on 16.10.1899

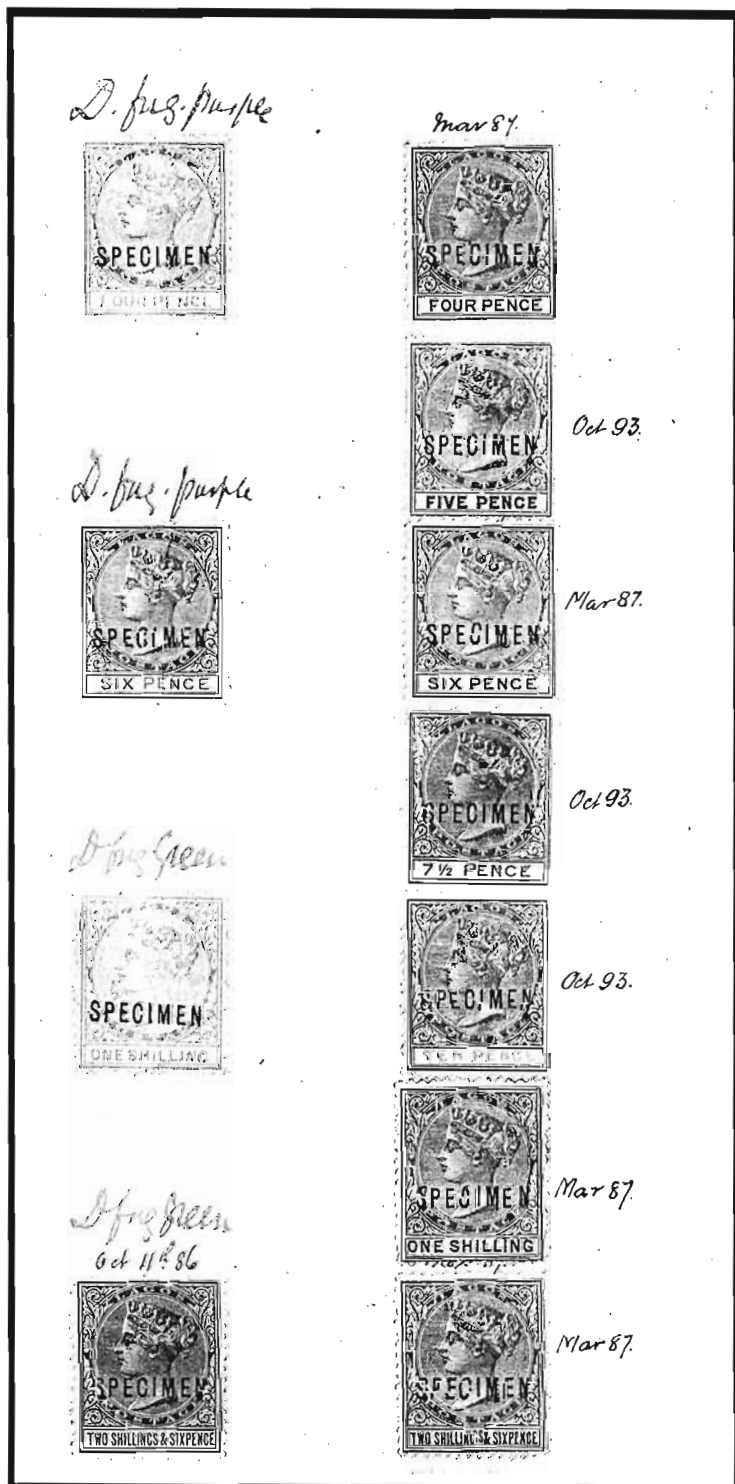
# LAGOS

1887 - 1893 Colour changes

Appendix from De La Rue archives.

The appendix shows the four colour changes required for the:  
4d, 6d, 1s & 2s 6d values.

These colours were to change to dull fugitive purple or green.



The three new values to be issued: 5d, 7.5d & 10d,  
were agreed in October 1893 & issued in February 1894.

LAGOS

28 March 1891 - Lagos to Hamburg, via Liverpool, arriving Hamburg 6.5.1891.

*Per Herbert's via Liverpool*



J. Ferd. Nagel, Esq<sup>re</sup>.

Steinwärdor

HAMBURG

GERMANY.

*paid*



Königsplatz

September 1892 - Emergency manuscript surcharge of 1.5d postcard.  
Required through postal reduction of postcards to 1d.  
In use October 1892 to April 1893, about 200 were produced.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE  
LAGOS  
POST CARD  
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

*30.12.92*

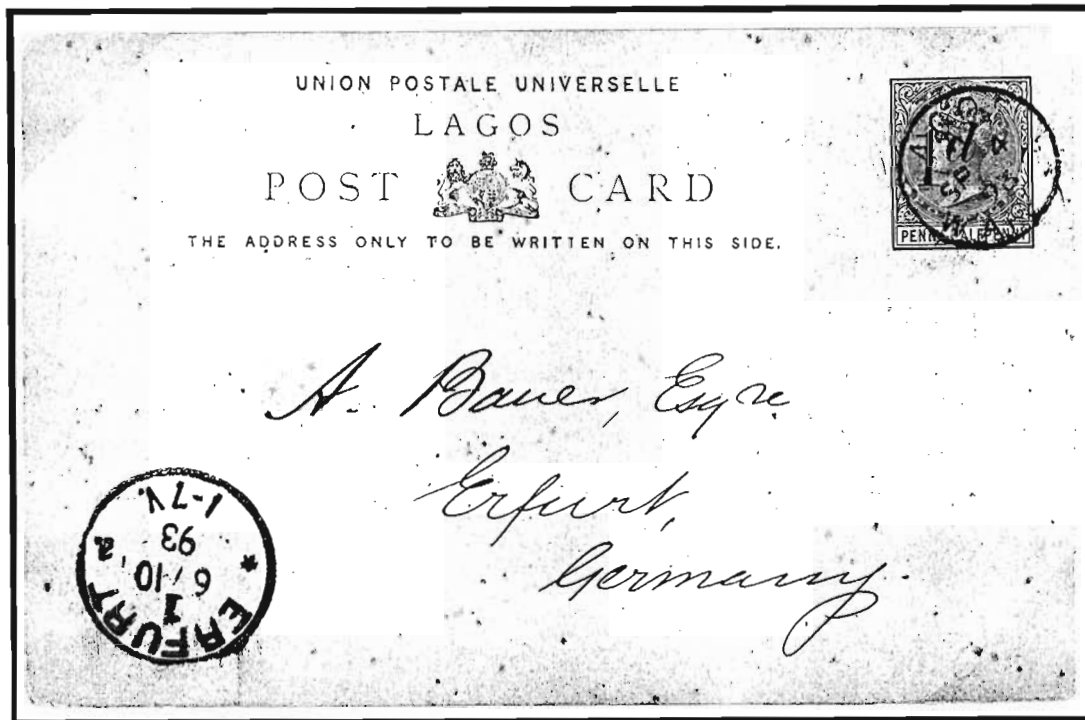
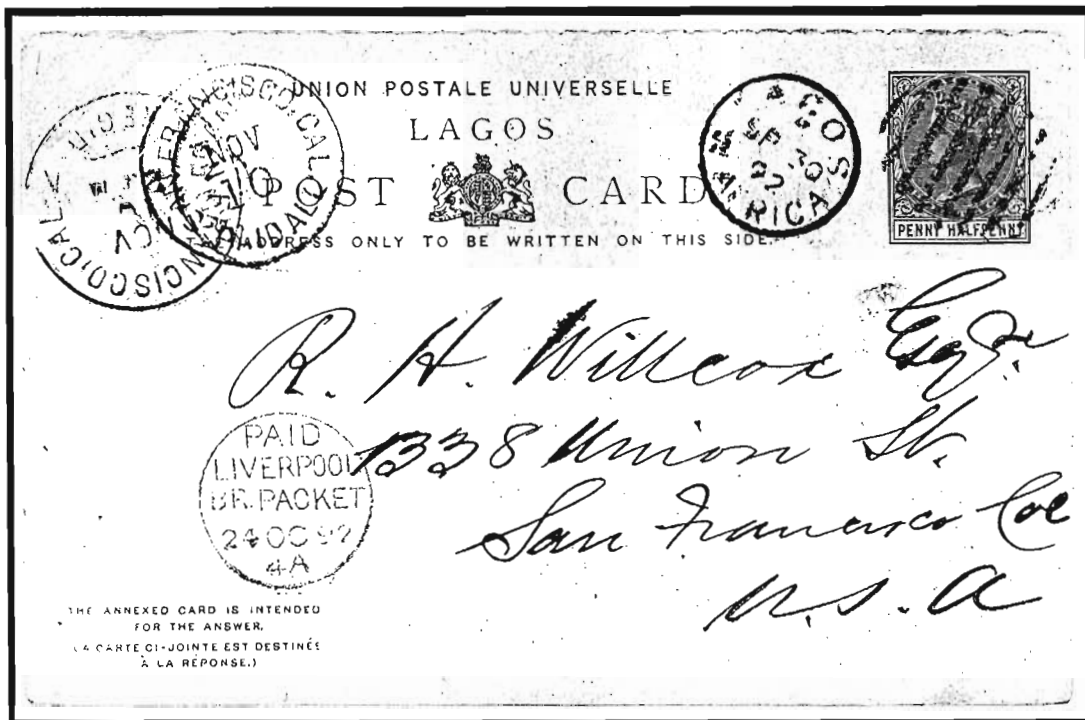
Messrs.  
*Theodor Buhl & Co*  
*Stamps Merchants.*  
*111 Queen Victoria Str. London E.C.*

Very few are recorded and this example was used within the correct period, this card is datestamped at Lagos on 29 November 1892.

# LAGOS

1892 - "1d" Locally overprinted postcard

The top card, written by the Lagos Postmaster G.J. Cole, advises an American collector that the new postcards were available at 1d each. As the 1d carmine card was invoiced by De La Rue on 5 October 1892, the Postmaster must have been referring to the 1d local provisional overprint.

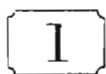


The date of issue of the provisionally overprinted card remains unknown but at least we know that it was available on 30 September 1892. The earliest recorded usage is 1 November 1892.

The locally overprinted provisional above was used on 4 September 1893 and is the sub-type with the narrow space between the "1" & "d" of surcharge

# LAGOS

1893 Provisional overprint - complete pane of 60, 16mm setting.  
Twenty examples of the triplet setting with several double & kiss prints.



# LAGOS

1893 - Imperf Proofs with Handpainted value tablets.

A requisition was received by De La Rue on 2 October 1893 for the new 5d, 7.5d & 10d stamps. Proofs, with handpainted tablets, were sent submitted to the Crown Agents four days later in the shown proposed colours.

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 1893.

## Appendix.



The proofs were accepted but the 7.5d value tablet was changed to "PENCE".

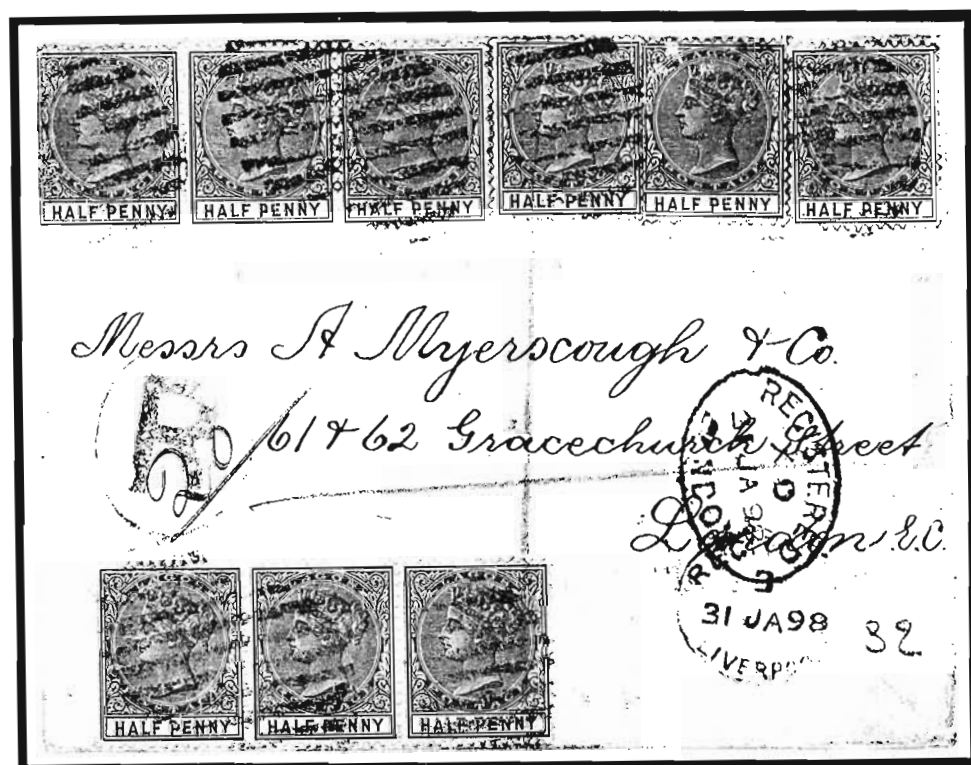
## LAGOS

1885 - Halfpenny Dull Green with Large Duty Plate

Lagos 8 January 1898 to London, arriving 31 January 1898

Fourth stamp on top row has large duty plate letters

These measure 1.9mm high as opposed to the 1.75mm normal size.



As is the case of the 2.5d large duty plate, the De La Rue records contain no record of this sub-type.

Whereas the 2.5d large duty plate is now catalogued and incorporated into Ince & Sacher, the halfpenny variety is not contained in either book.

The postal charge of 4.5d comprises 2.5d postage (0.5oz) & 2d registration.

## LAGOS

1891 - The LARGE and SMALL Duty Plate of the 2.5d

This value has minor differences to the Duty Plate which has resulted in the variation being listed as SG 31a.

In the triplet below the left hand stamp is the "normal" Ultramarine shade with the "small" duty plate.

The centre stamp is the elusive Blue shade SG 31b, always with the "small" duty plate; whereas the last stamp is the so-called "large" duty plate.

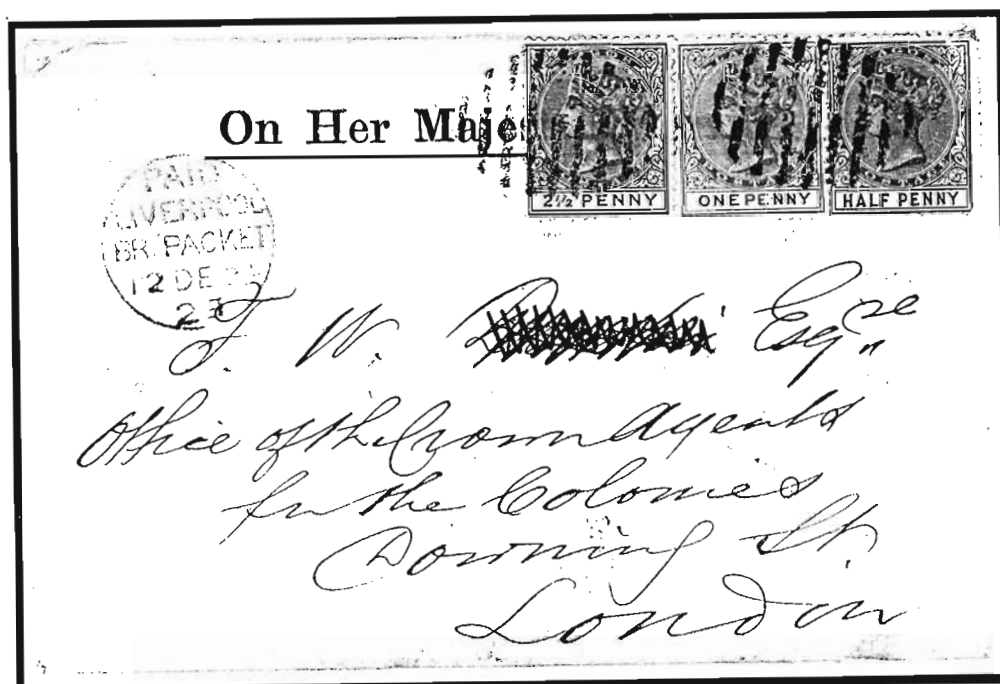


Much has been written about this variety but, as yet, no satisfactory explanation has been forthcoming.

De La Rue records provide no clues so it seems probable that there were two fonts which became unintentionally mixed on the same plate.

19 November 1894 - 2.5d Ultramarine on "O.H.M.S." cover.

Addressed to The Crown Agents in London, the cover is incorrectly stamped, the U.K. rate at this time was 2.5d per half ounce, registration was 2d.

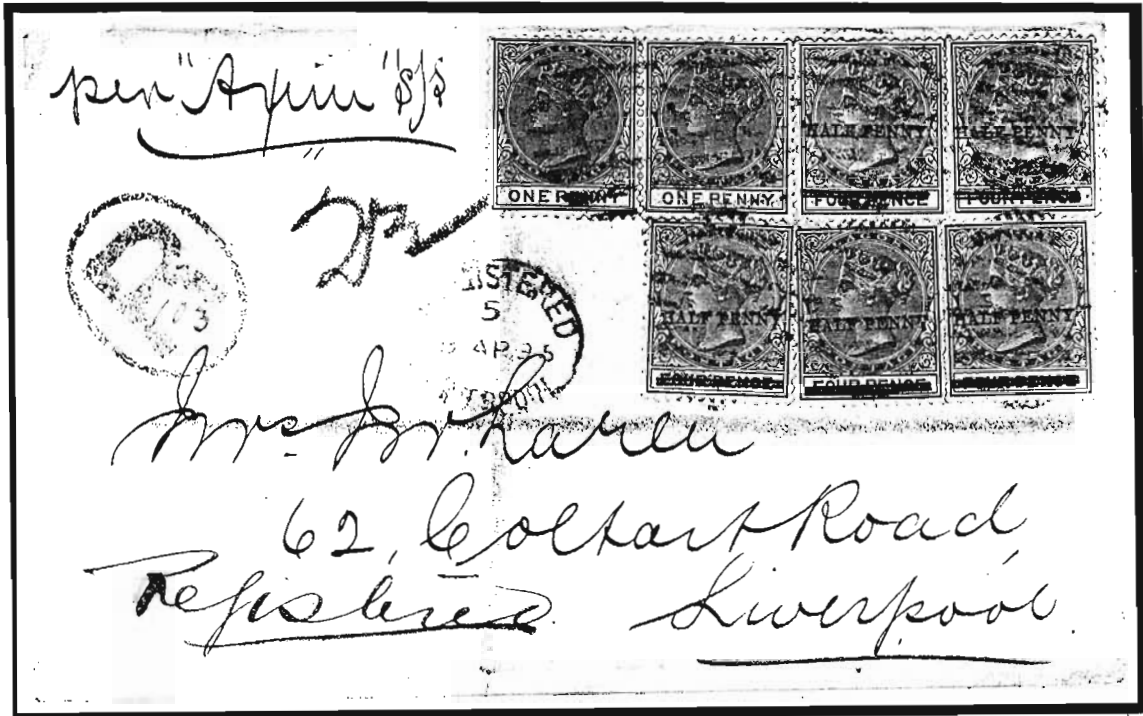


This 2.5d ultramarine has the small duty plate.

# LAGOS

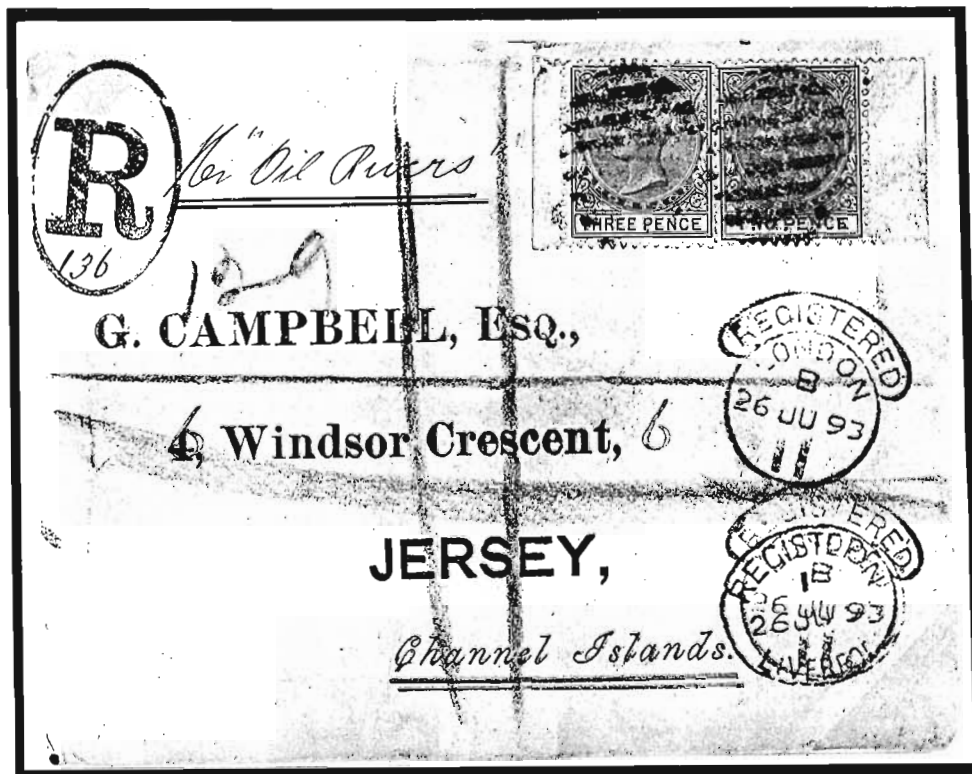
1893 - Halfpenny Provisional

Lagos 21 March 1895 to Liverpool arriving 18 April 1895



1893 - Previously unrecorded Ibadan blue "R" in oval.

When the letter arrived in Lagos it received a new registration number. Blue crayon lines were added at Lagos - easily deduced because the lines on the reverse of the cover are over the Lagos transit mark.

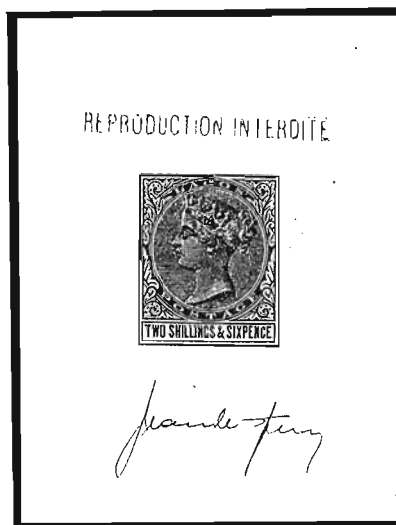
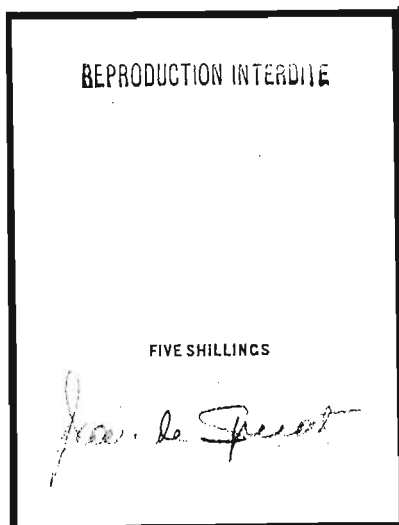


Stamps are tied with a 26.5 x 20mm barred oval used at Ibadan. Sacher lists only one example dated 25.9.1899, six years later.

# LAGOS

Jean de Sperati - Master Forger

Die Proofs of the complete 2s 6d & the 5s value tablet.  
The 2s 6d was produced by means of double plate lithography,  
hence the mottled appearance when compared to the genuine  
stamps which were produced typographically.



The lithographic difference in Sperati's work can be seen  
in the mint & used Sperati's below.



Sperati used genuine Crown CA watermarked paper comb perforated 14,  
identical to that which the genuine stamps were printed.

Sperati's work was superb, especially when compared to the Panelli  
forgeries below. This first has the watermark painted on using hot wax,  
the next pair have embossed watermarks & the last pair no watermark.



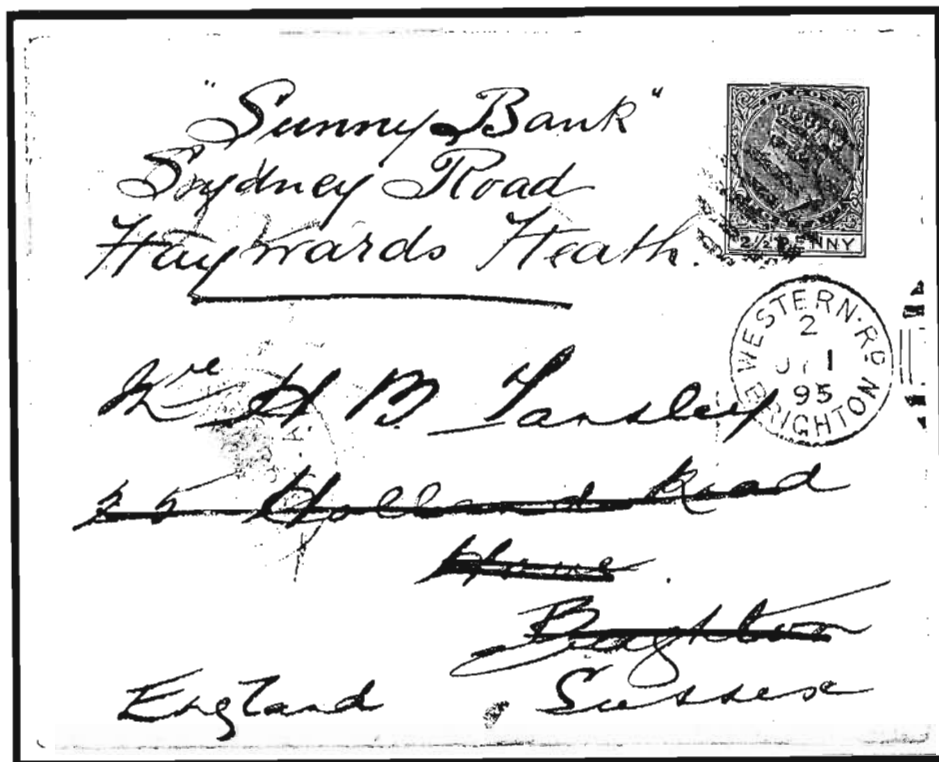
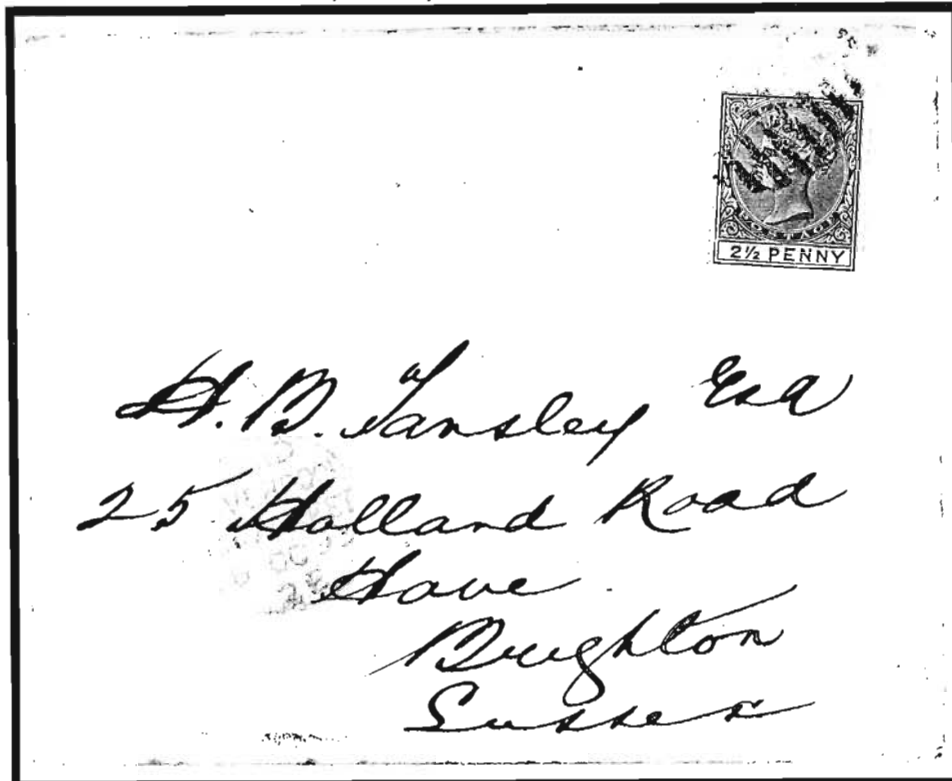
The last row shows two Spiro forgeries of very poor quality.

## LAGOS

The new postal rate of 2.5d per half ounce was introduced during 1891.

The 2.5d stamps first arrived in the Colony on 15 April 1891.

The top cover, to Brighton, bears the 2.5d ultramarine with the LARGE Duty Plate, tied by a nine bar oval canceller, which arrived in Liverpool by British Packet on 6 October 1893.



Lower cover, from the same correspondence, has the very elusive BLUE shade which first appeared in 1895, it is datestamped at Lagos 6 June 1895 and arrived in Brighton on 1 July 1895.

This blue shade only exists with the small duty plate.

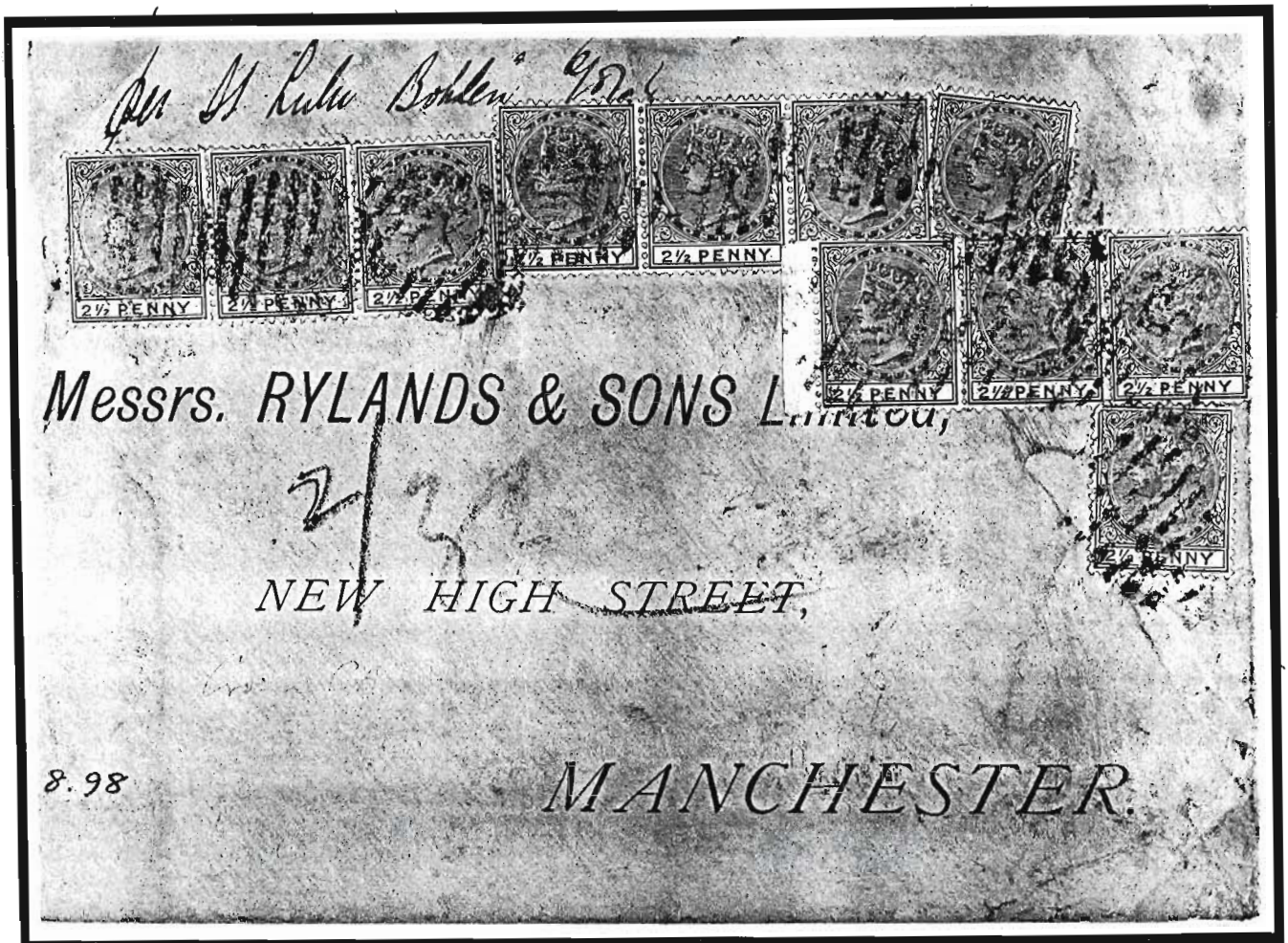
## LAGOS

1898 - The 2.5d Small & Large Duty Plates on one cover

The single stamp on the lower row has the large duty plate

Adhesives are cancelled by the Nine Bar Oval

Lagos 6 August 1898 to Manchester, arriving 30 August 1898



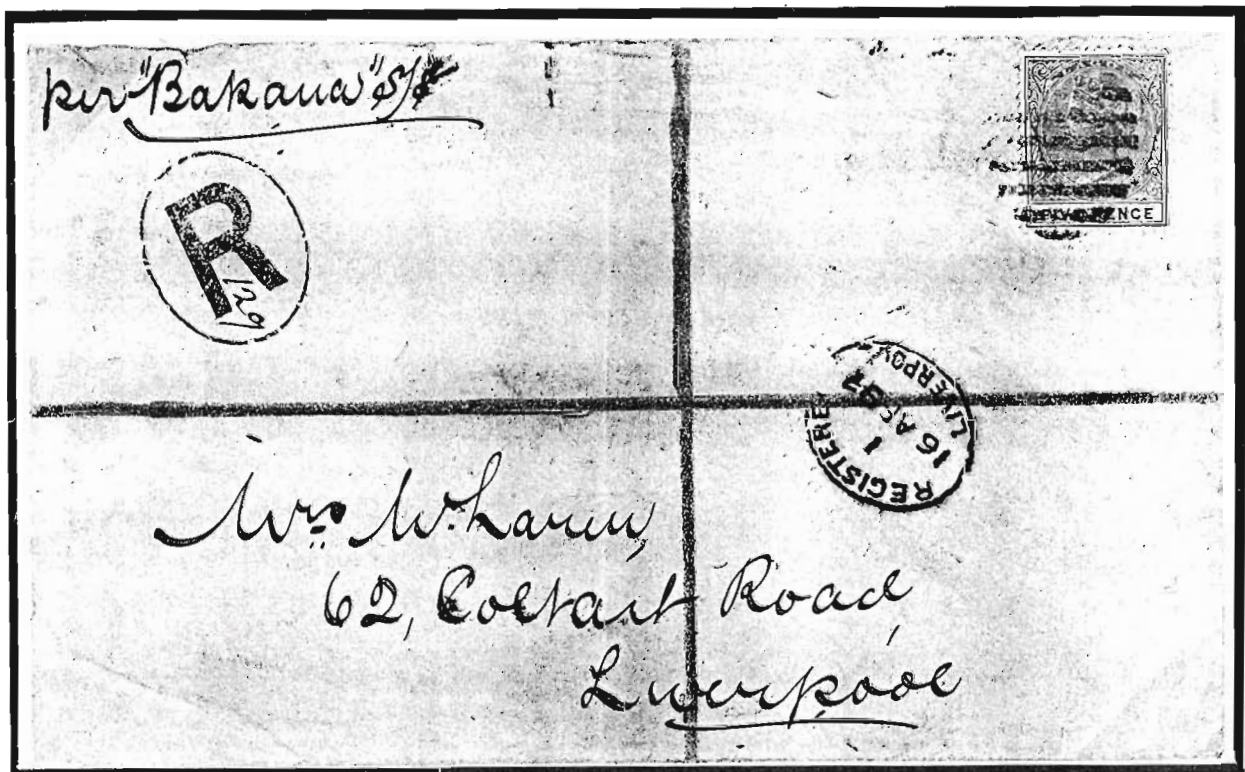
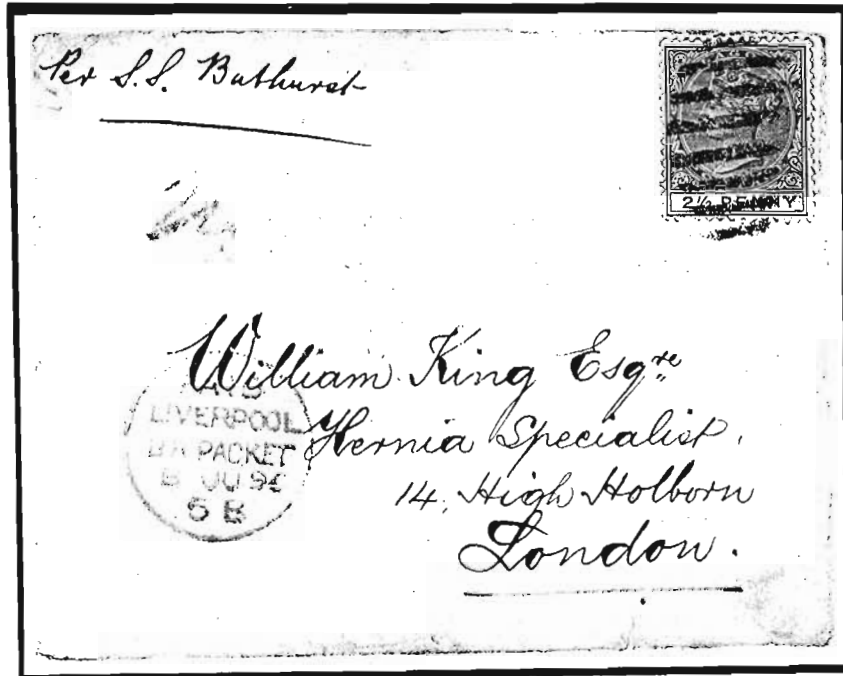
Letter was carried by the ss Lulu Bohlen of the Hamburg West Africa Line

The letter weighed 3.5 ounces which at 2.5d per 0.5oz = 2s 3.5d  
as per the red manuscript on the front

# LAGOS

1895 & 1897 - Sub-types of the "LAGOS" over "A"

1895 - 2.5d cover with Type 7b datestamp (left hand example)



1897 - 5d cover (0.5d excess) with Type 7c datestamp, right hand example.

# LAGOS

1895 - Registered mail to New York

Lagos 20.11.95, via London 19.12.95, to New York 28.12 1895

One ounce letter, 2.5d per 0.5oz, plus 2d Registration



Letter was from the Colonial Post Office, Lagos.

LAGOS

1897 - 2.5oz letter to Germany with redirection to Switzerland  
Very few of this extra large size Registered letter (RP 1) were printed

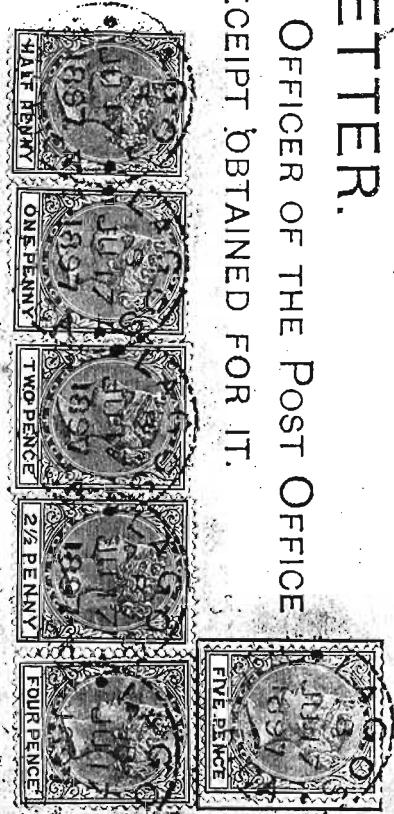


REGISTERED  
LETTER.  
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO  
AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE  
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A  
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.

*R*

*Capitain Ck*

REGISTERED  
LETTER.  
AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE  
RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.



*von Trincoro*

*Deutsche Post*

*Germany*

*Sept. 13/97*  
*Widdow*  
*Germany*



*6 Absorption*

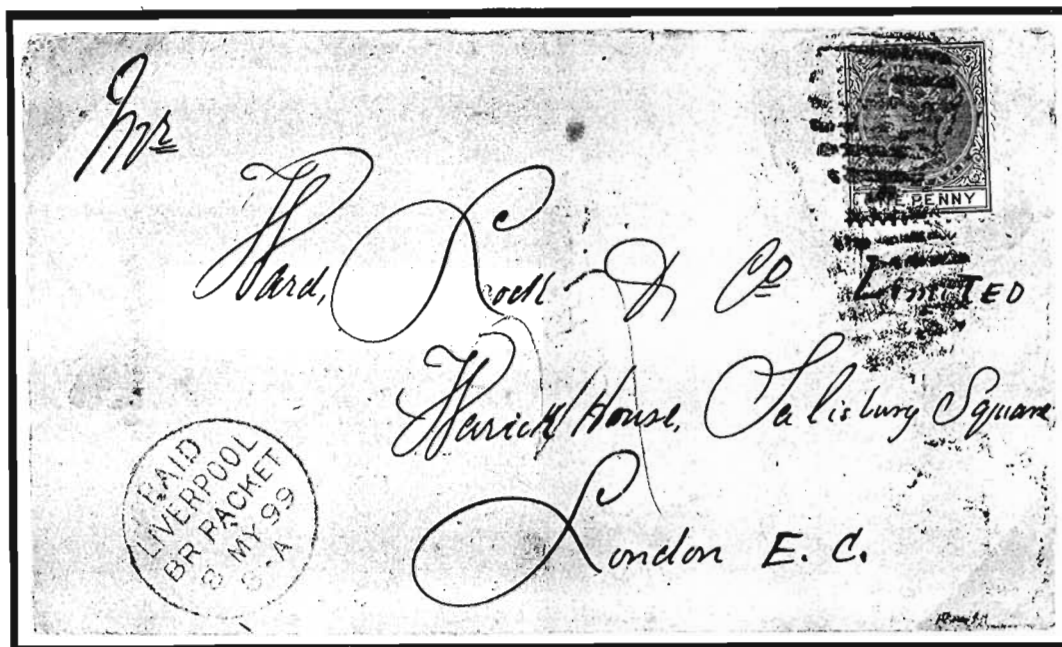
*1077*  
REGISTERED  
14E  
12 JULY 97  
LONDON

# LAGOS

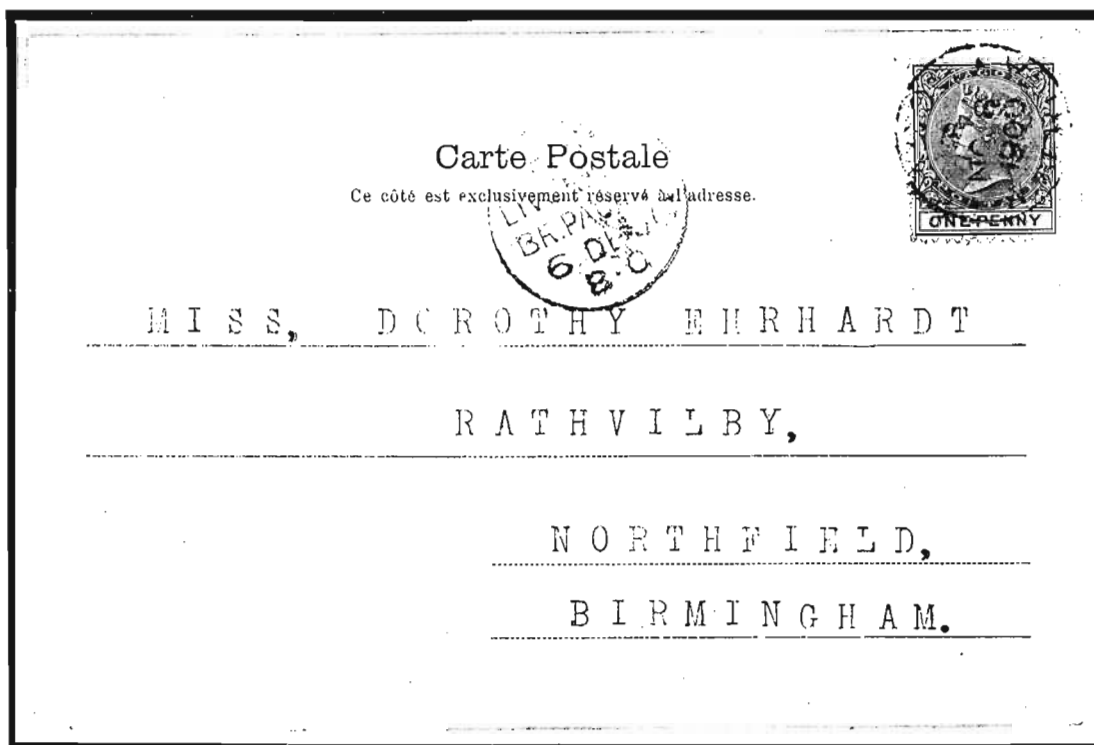
1898 - The Imperial Penny Postage

The new Penny rate was introduced on 25 December 1898

This cover sent from Lagos on 15 April 1899 took 23 days to reach London



1900 - Dahomey postcard, dated 8 November 1900, addressed to the daughter of the Police Magistrate at Lagos, Mr E. Ehrhardt



The Lagos datestamp is the 23mm Lagos over "B", type 8a. The diameter of the datestamp differs slightly from earlier types.

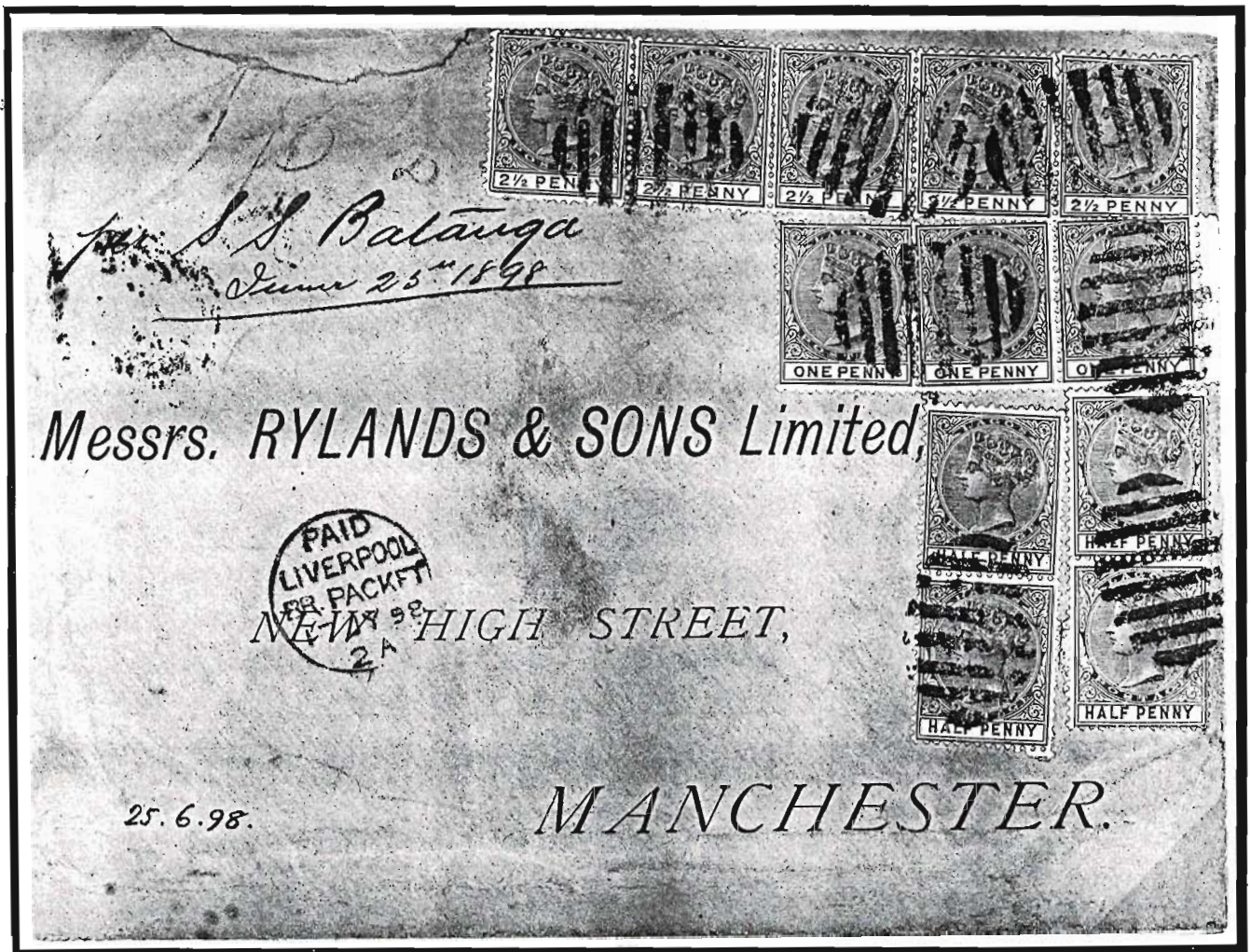
# LAGOS

1898 - The Eight Bar Oval obliterator

Lagos 25 June 1898 to Mancheste, arriving 18 July 1898

Adhesives cancelled by the Eight Bar Oval

3.5oz letter rated at 2.5d per ounce



Letter was irregularly postmarked "PAID LIVERPOOL - BR PACKET"

This mark was only for use on mail landed at Liverpool from British Ships under the British Post Office Mail Contract.

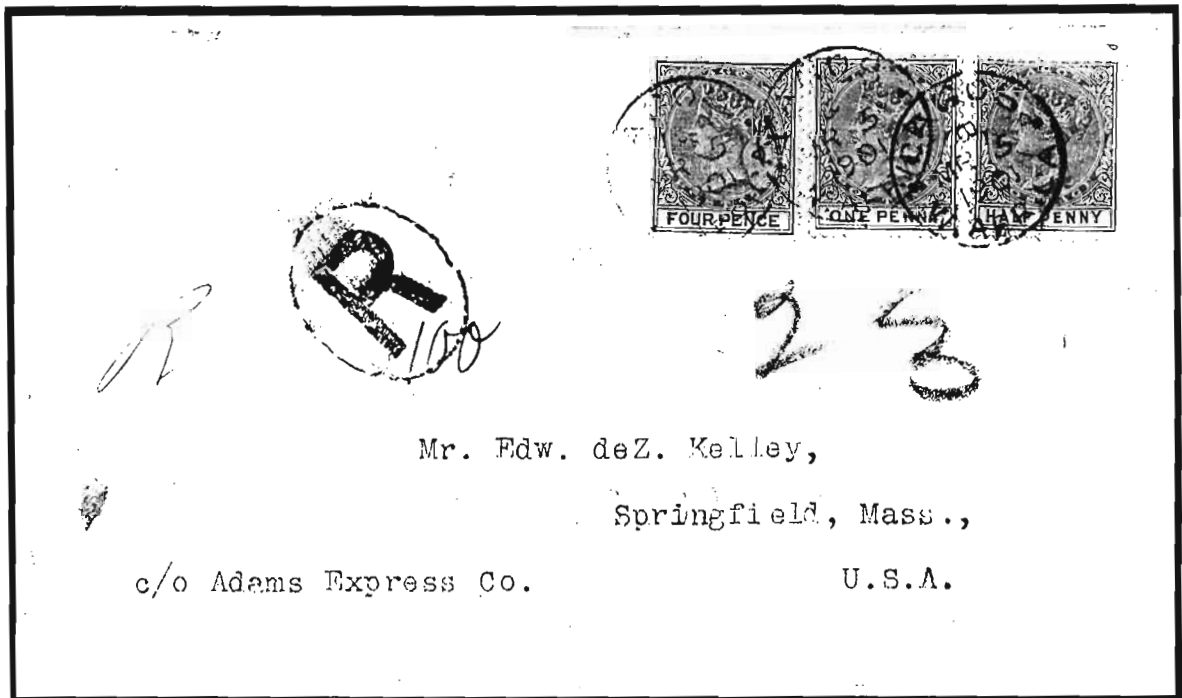
The ss Batanga was a German ship of the Hamburg West Africa Line

LAGOS

20 February 1901 - Lagos to Leipzig, via London, arriving 21 March 1901.



5 March 1901 - Lagos to Springfield, Massachusetts,  
via New York 8 April, arriving Springfield 9 April 1901.



Letter was sent by the Lagos Postmaster, G.J. Cole,  
and signed by him on the reverse.

# LAGOS

3 October 1901 - Lagos to South Africa, via London.

This philatelic cover is shown for its unusual qualities:

The cover is addressed to Emil Tamsen, a well known stamp dealer at the time.

The cover is signed by the Lagos Post Master, A. LaBorde, and the seal of the "Colonial Post Office, Lagos, W.C.A." in red wax on the reverse.

Why did the cover go to South Africa via London when, during the Boer War, so many ships called at Lagos on their journey south?

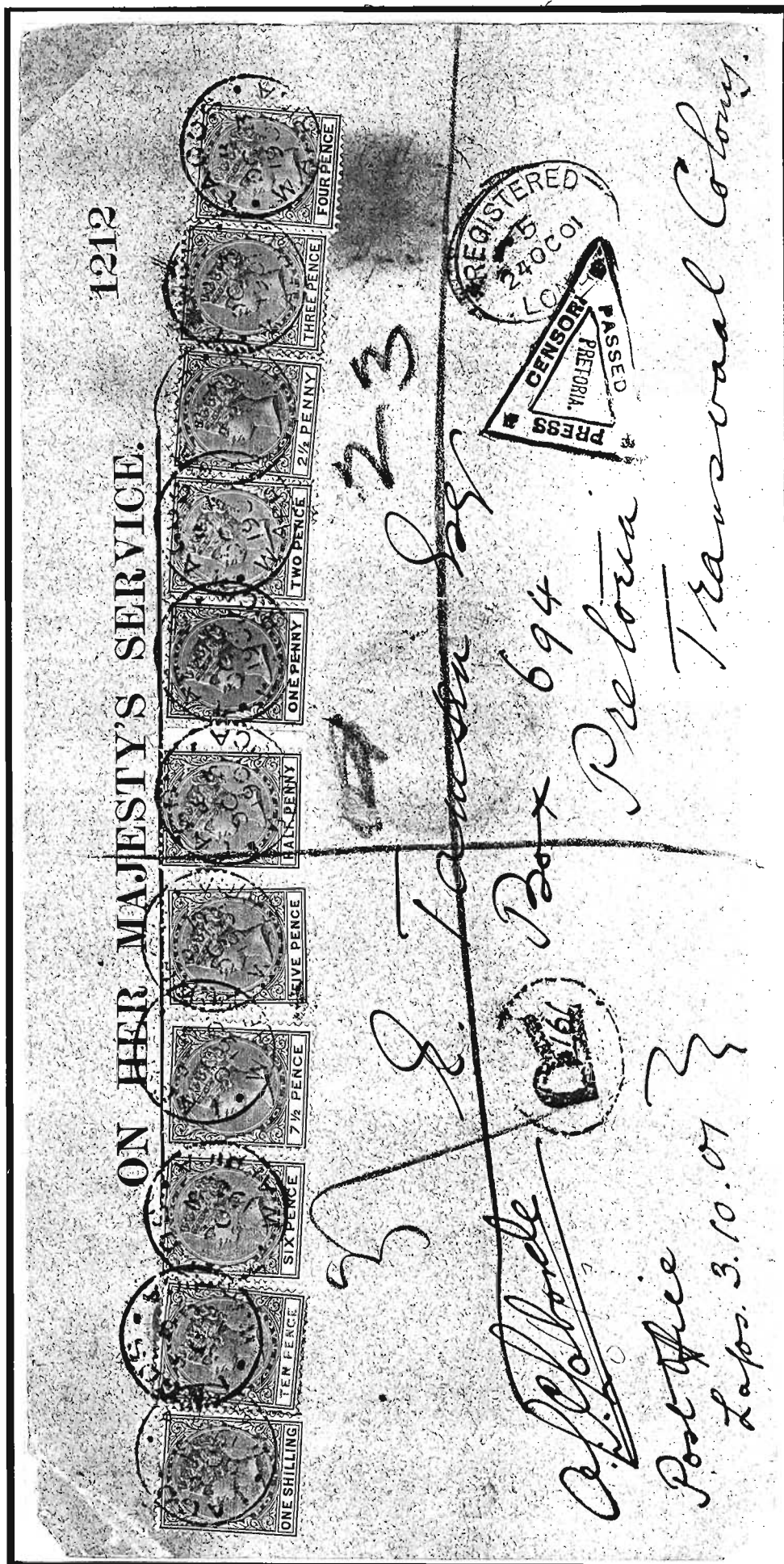
The 3d & 10d stamps have been stuck with gum, illustrating the problems encountered with gum not adhering & the complaints received from the Lagos Post Office re bad De La Rue gumming, in particular on these two values.

The 2.5d stamp has the large value tablet.

O.H.M.S. envelopes of this size are seldom recorded.

The cover is backstamped in Pretoria on 15 November 1901.

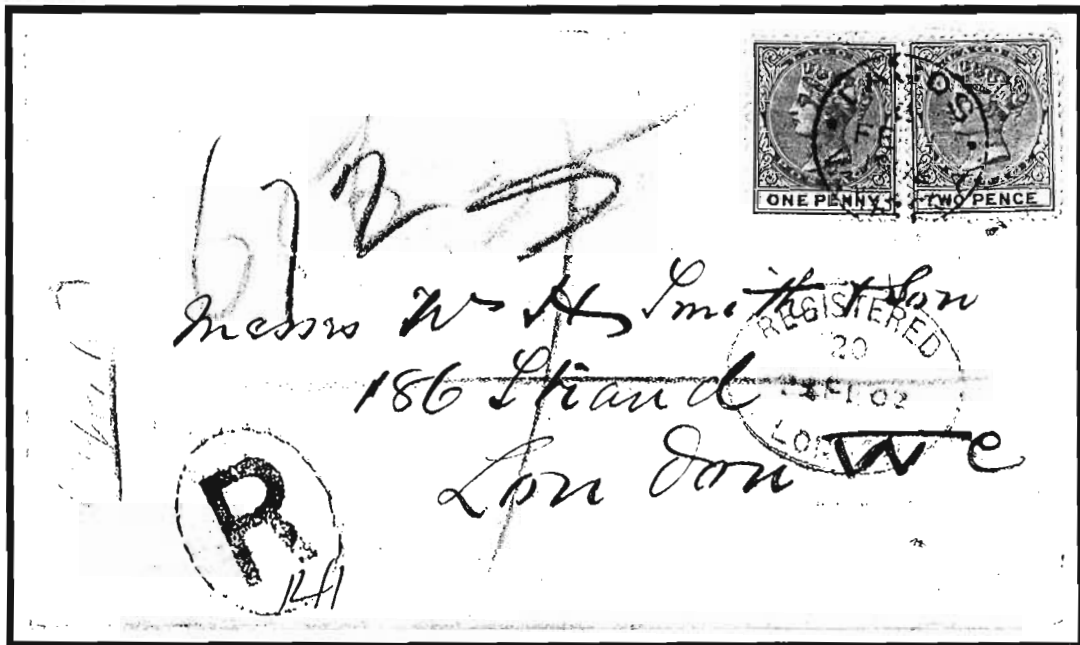
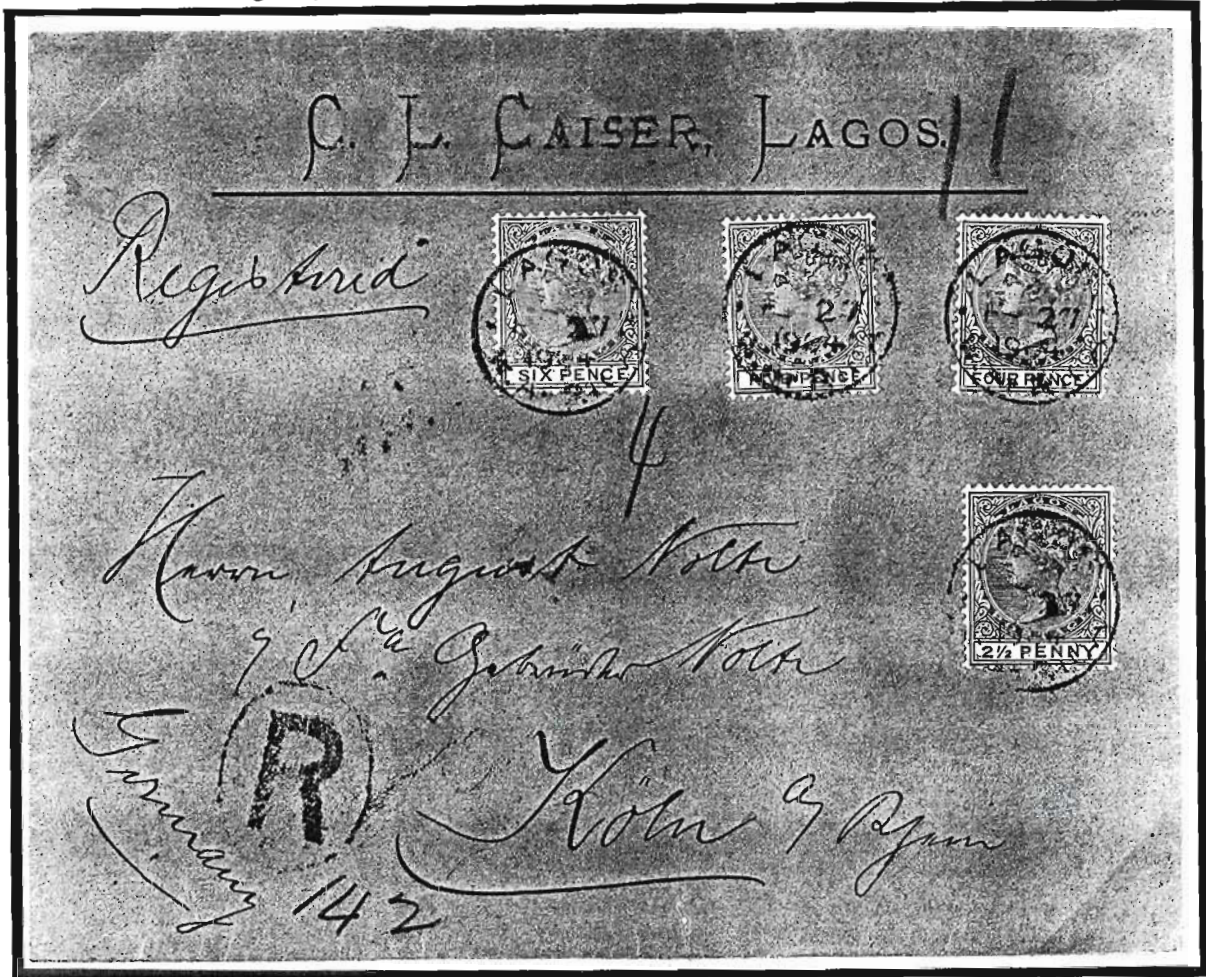
It is rare to find many of these values used on cover, even if they are C.T.O.!



# LAGOS

1902 & 1904 - Registrations  
Lagos - 27 February 1904 to Cologne, via London, arriving 22.3.1904

3oz letter at 2.5d per 0.5oz = 1s 3d + 2d registration. The manuscript marks appear incorrect as 1s 1d not "11" was due to the U.K. account. The Lagos pencilled "4" shows the correct 4d for their share.



The 8.2.02 letter has a manuscript "Registered" in blue crayon, with additional blue manuscript numbers, being registration numbers & not accountancy marks.

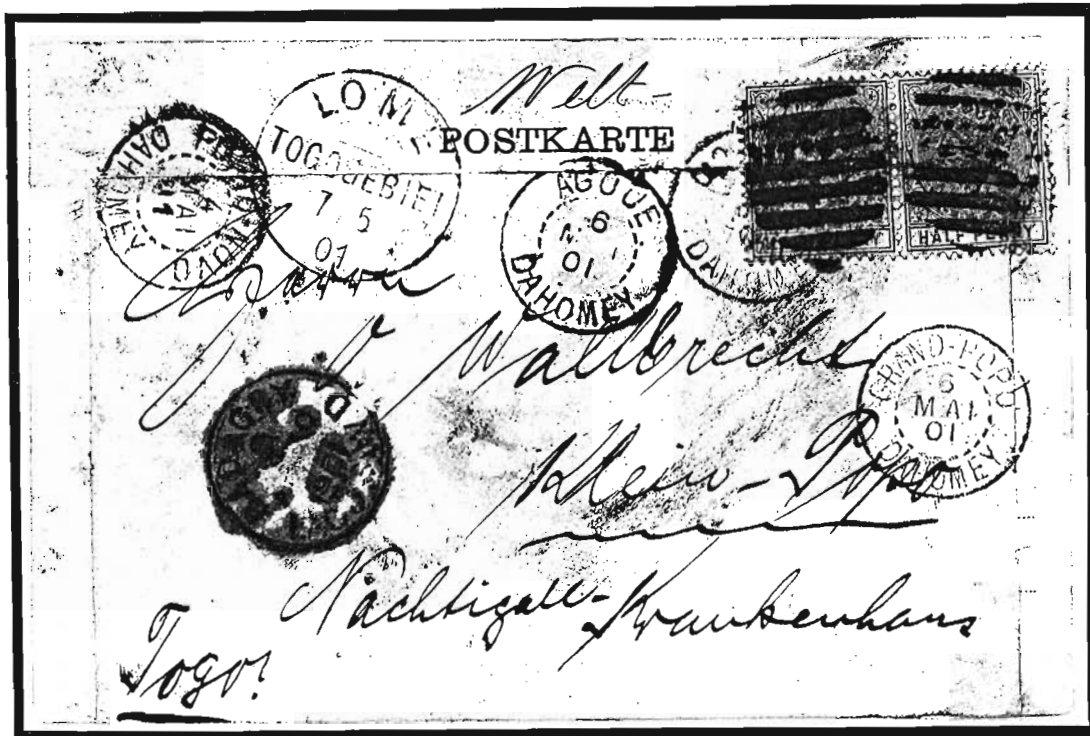
## LAGOS

1901 - Earliest recorded "BADAGRY W.D."

Postcard from Hamburd 11 March 1901 to Lagos (Badagry).

The Badagry W.D. datestamp predates the previously recorded earliest strike by more than six months.

The Lagos addressee stuck a label over the previous address, added Lagos adhesives over the 10pf German stamp, and then readdressed it to the hospital at Klein Popo, Togo.



The card has ten different postmarks over the front and back:

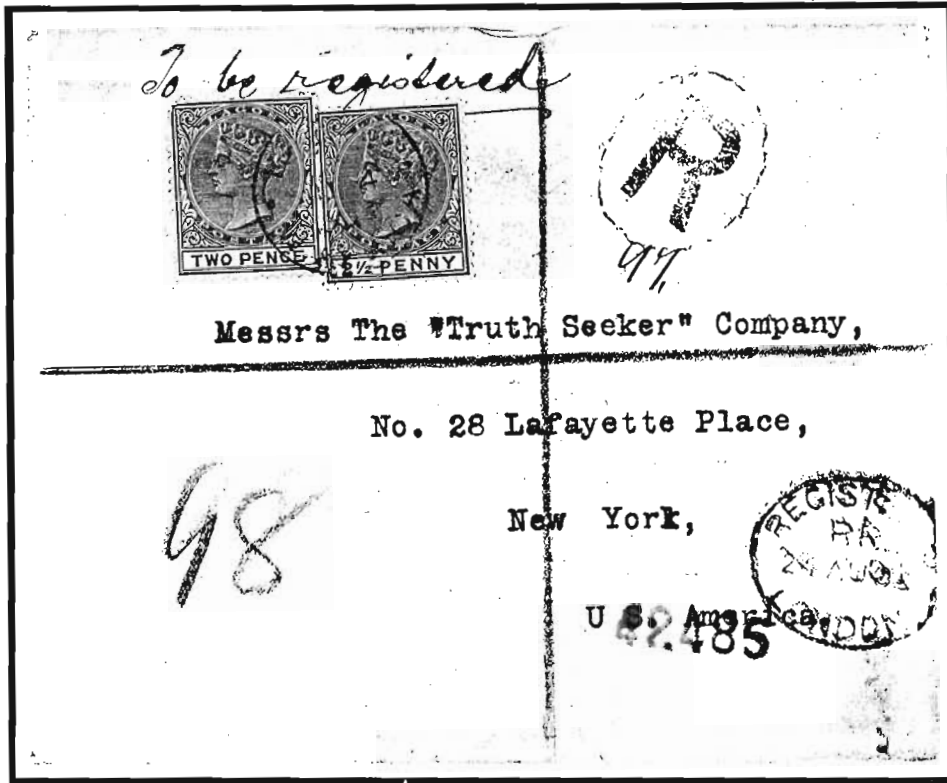
Hamburg 11.3.01, Badagry, Lagos W.D. 30.4.01, Nine bar oval, Lagos W. Africa 1.5.01, Indistinct Dahomey 4.5.01, Porto Novo 4.5.01, Dahomey 5.5.01, Ague Dahomey 6.5.01, Grand Popo Dahomey 6.5.01, and Lome Togobeit 7.5.01.

The card would have travelled east through the lagoons and swamps, then over the bar at Lagos, into the Atlantic and then double-backed in a Westerly direction touching virtually every possible port until it reached its final destination at Klein Popo.

LAGOS

Registered mail to the U.S.A.

Two envelopes that both travelled on the same boat, ss Sokoto.  
Lagos 4 August 1903 to New York arriving 4 September 1903

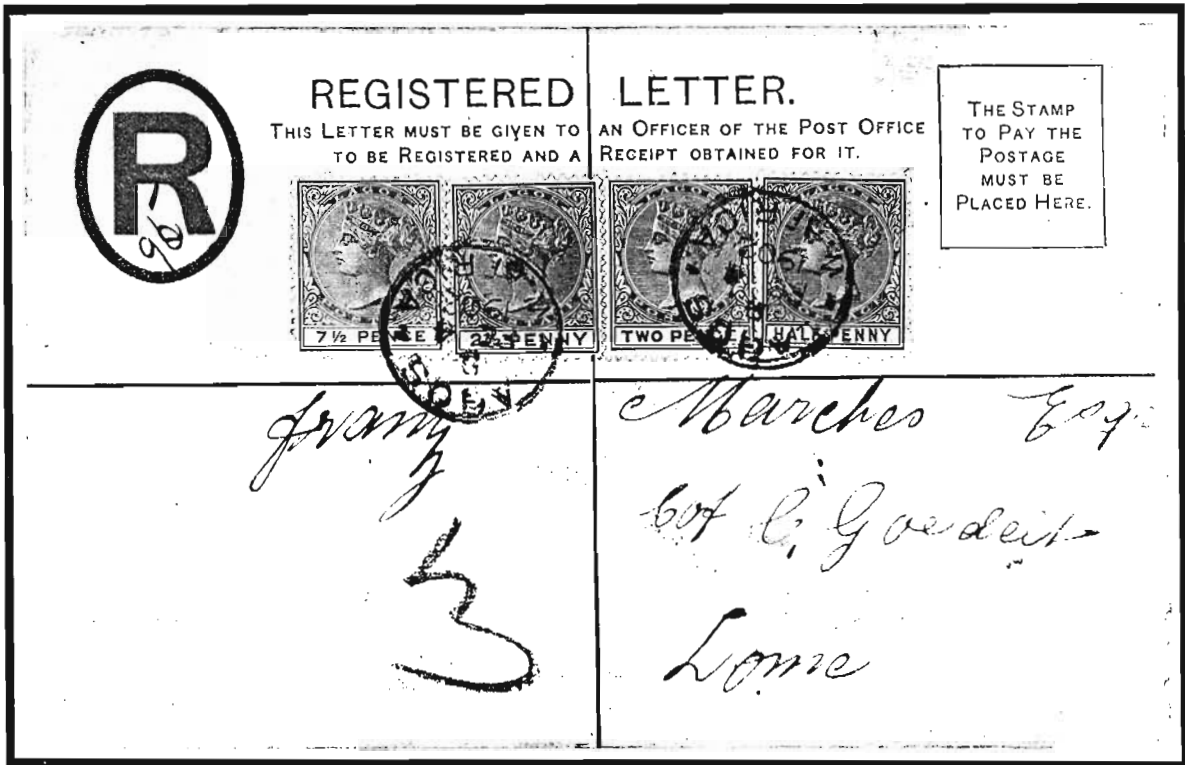


Rate was 2.5d for a half ounce letter plus 2d registration

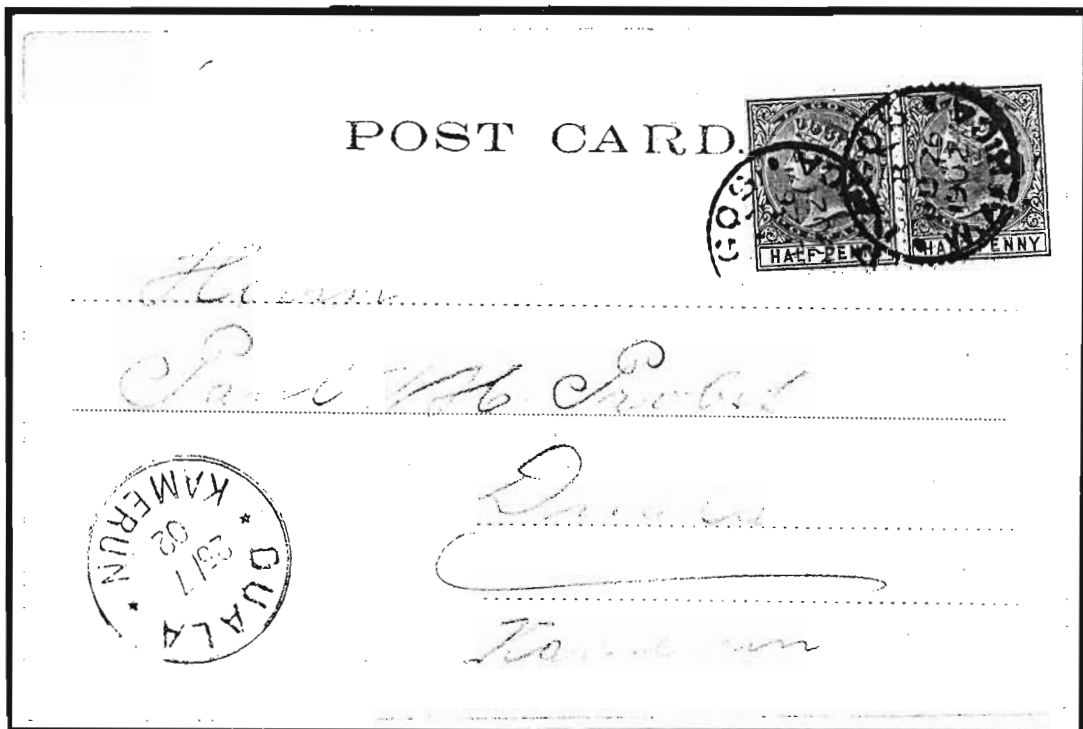
# LAGOS

Mail to German Colonies

Lagos 4 February 1902 to Lome, Togo, arriving 6 February 1902



Lagos 26 June 1902 to Duala, Cameroons, arriving 25 July 1902  
Delivery time for this short distance was 29 days.



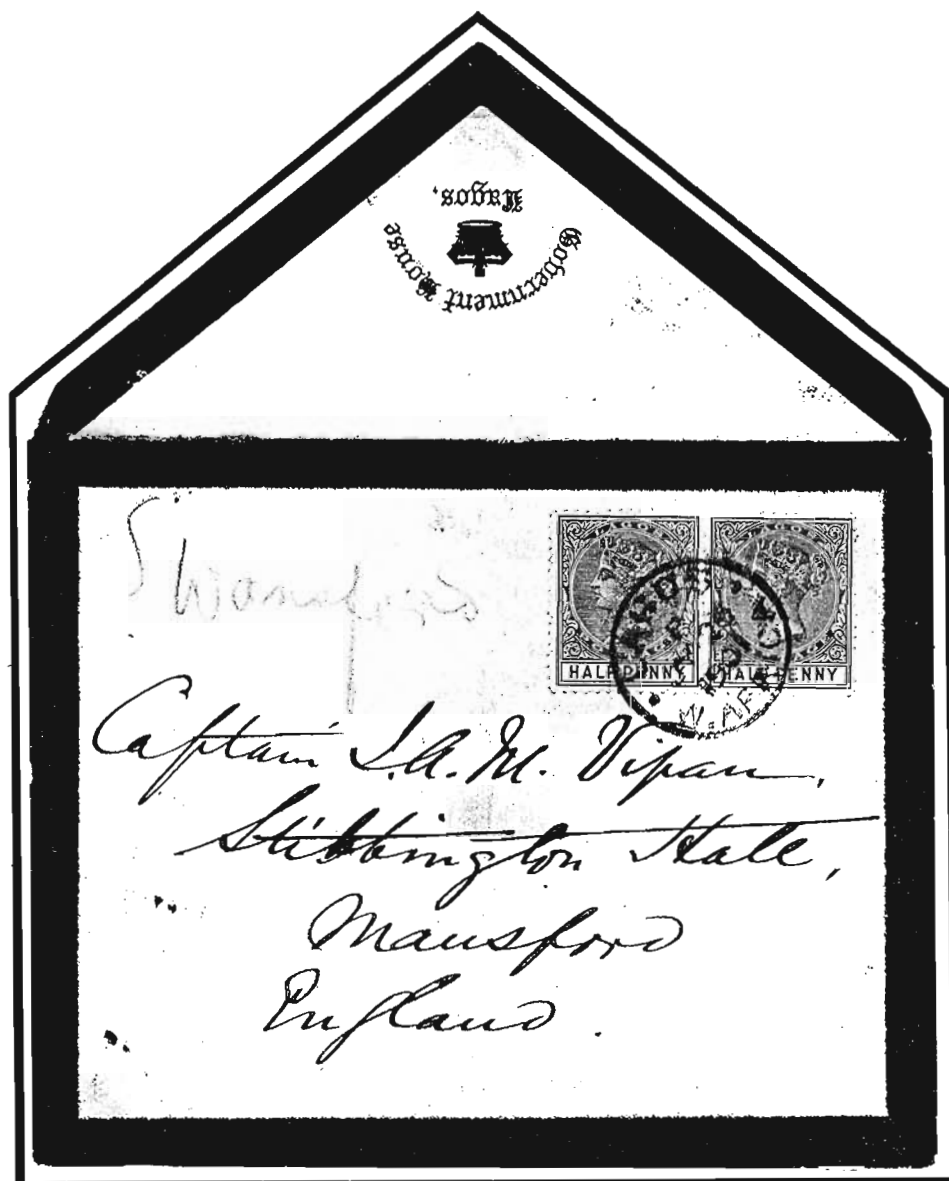
Postcard has two halfpenny stamps with the large duty plates

# LAGOS

1901 - Official Mourning Envelope

Government House, Lagos, mourning stationery following the death of Queen Victoria on 22 January 1901

Lagos 26 July 1901 to Wansford, Humberside, arriving 16 August 1901



Letter is incorrectly addressed to Mansford but is endorsed

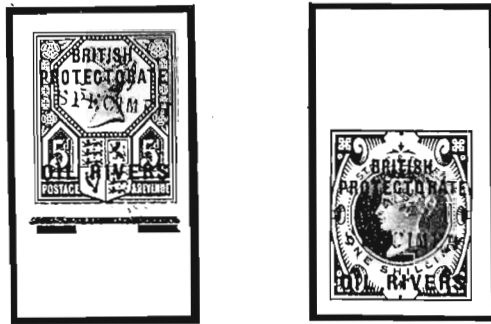
"Wansford" in blue crayon on the front

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

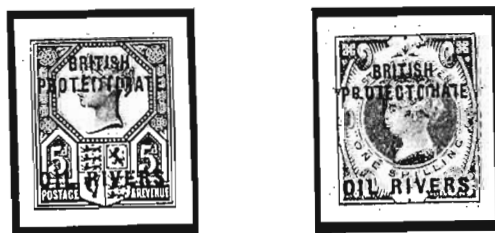
1892 - Provisional issue - G.B. overprints

"BRITISH PROTECTORATE - OIL RIVERS" on the Jubilee issue

Specimens - Handstamped by the Inland Revenue at Somerset House  
and not by De La Rue



The issued stamps

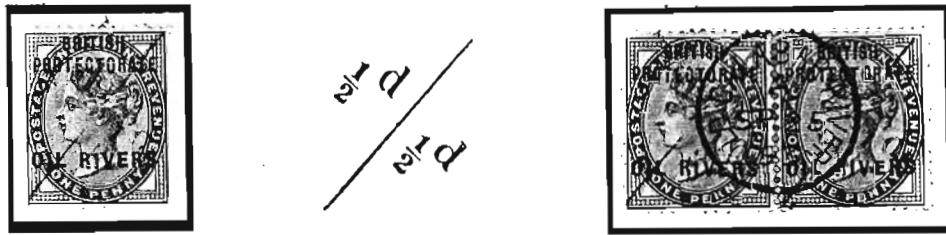


The stamps were first put on sale at Old Calabar on 20 July 1892

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

September 1893 - The Old Calabar Provisional Bisect.

Halfpenny bisect on the 1d lilac, surcharged to cover stamp shortage.



4 sheets of 120 were produced so creating 960 Halfpenny provisionals.

December 1893 - The Old Calabar Provisional Halfpenny Surcharges

"Type 4" separately surcharged in Green, Carmine & Blue



120 Surcharges were produced in each colour

"Type 5" vermilion surcharge - Full stop after the second "N" of "PENN.Y"

Whereas 360 vermilion surcharges were produced, few are recorded with this variety, SG 17.



Right hand stamp, Halfpenny on 2d, is "Type 6", with full stop omitted.

This surcharge is in violet, SG 18, and 120 were so produced.

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

September 1893 - The Old Calabar Provisionals

Locally surcharged 2.5d due to shortage of halfpenny values

Pair, surcharged in vermilion, with left hand stamp having surcharge, "Type 6", reading vertically down, with right hand stamp normal "Type 7".

RPS certificate 22.3.1995



A total of 360 halfpenny values were surcharged in vermilion.

Triplet surcharged with "Type 9", but mixed colours: Green-Vermilion-Green.  
Two other mixed colour triplets are recorded.

RPS certificate 22.3.1995



A total of 60 surcharges were made in vermilion & 120 in green

The Halfpenny on 2.5d separately surcharged in Blue and Vermilion.



"Type 9", of which 120 were produced in Blue & 60 in Vermilion.

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

December 1893 - The Old Calabar Halfpenny Provisionals

120 were surcharged on the 2d Vermilion (one sheet)  
Many minor varieties can be found but se-tenant examples are rare

SG 21d, Type 7, surcharge diagonal & inverted.

It appears that the operator reinked the surcharge after printing the faint left left stamp and carelessly applied the overinked surcharge to the right hand copy



*Half  
Penny*

Halfpenny Type 7 on the 2.5d

Three sheets, 360 stamps, were surcharged



*Half  
Penny*



Halfpenny Type 7 on the 2.5d as a used block of four  
with the sub-type "C" of the datestamp reversed



The provisionals were required because of a stamp shortage of the halfpenny  
at the Old Calabar Post Office.

There were eight different type settings and various coloured inks and  
were all struck, one at a time, by hand. "Errors" seem to have been  
overlooked to satisfy the keen philatelic interest that existed in  
the area's stamps at that time!

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

December 1893 - 1s Old Calabar Provisional

The 2d was surcharged "One Shilling" in Vermilion & Violet

There are two types of surcharge:

In type 1, the "O" of "One" is above the "h" of "Shilling";  
whereas in type 2 the "O" is above the first "i" of "Shilling".



In the above pair, the violet is type 1 & the vermilion type 2.  
176 copies of each of the two colour surcharges were produced.

The Vermilion & Violet se-tenant surcharge  
Both type 1



RPS certificate 22.3.95.

1s surcharge, type 2, with missing "l & n" in Shilling



One  
Shil i g

Similar examples are recorded showing the two "missing" letters to be suspect.

# OIL RIVERS PROTECTORATE

December 1893 - Local Surcharges

The Old Calabar 5s & 10s Provisionals

10s overprinted in vermilion on the 5d

RPSL certificates 3.5.1995 & 1.1.1959.



32 copies of the 10s surcharge were printed

5s overprinted in violet on the 2d

RPSL certificate 22.3.1995.



28 copies of the 5s surcharge were printed

10s overprinted in vermilion on the 5d

RPSL certificate 22.3.1995 & BPA certificate 14.10.1966



32 copies of the 10s surcharge were printed

It has been suggested that these higher values were produced to balance the book loss of the higher denomination stamps reduced to the lower value of those surcharged for use as halfpenny stamps

## NIGER COMPANY TERRITORIES

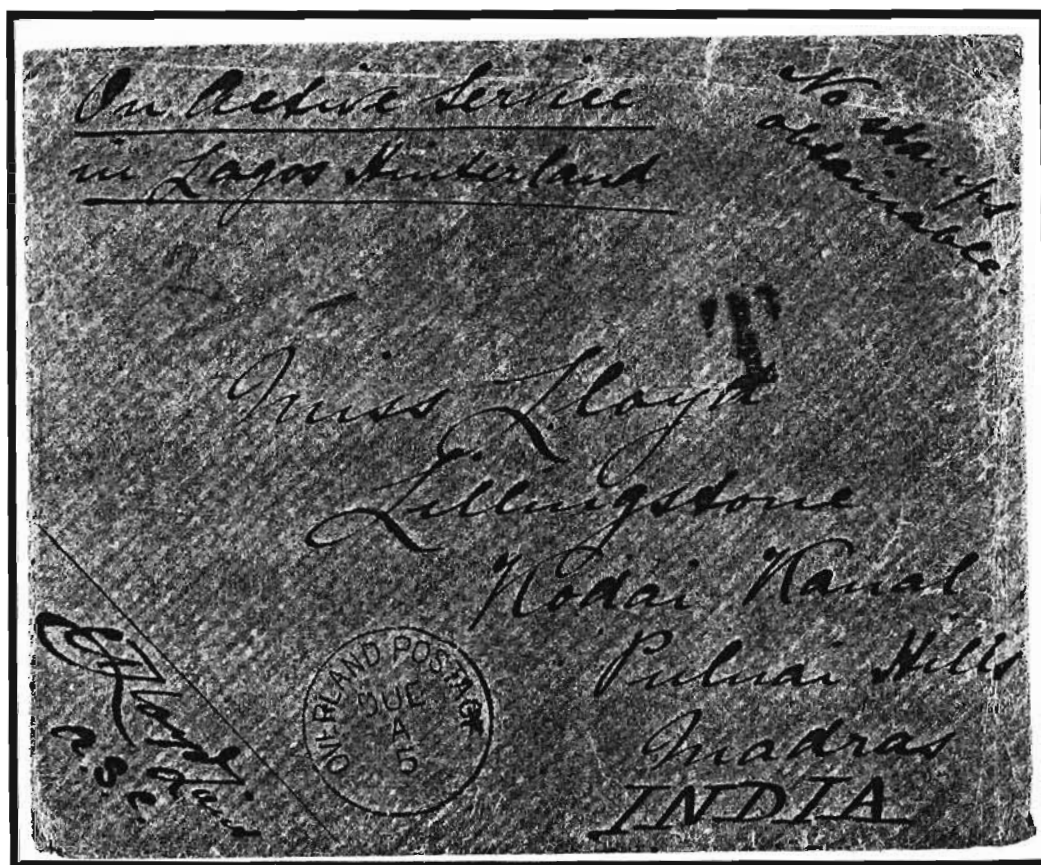
1898 - Lagos Hinterland Expedition

Expedition took place from September 1897 to 14 June 1898.

The expedition reached Borgu, Northern Nigeria, where hostilities ended in August 1898.

Cover from Lagos 19 July 1898 to Kodaikanal, India, arriving 6.9.1898

Endorsed - "On Active Service in Lagos Hinterland - No stamps available"



According to the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia, this is the only recorded cover from this expedition.

Expedition included British Forces from the 1st & 2nd West India Regiment.

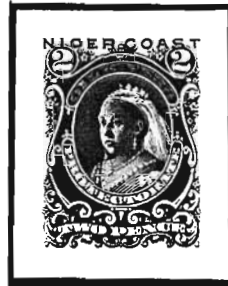
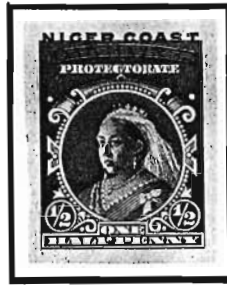
The reverse bears the following strikes:

Lagos 19 July 1898, Liverpool Br. Packet 17 August 1898,  
Sea Post Office 28 August 1898 & Kodaikanal 6 September 1898.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1893 - Imperf Colour Trials of the first issue (1894) with

"OIL RIVERS" obliterated & substituted with "NIGER COAST" in top margin.

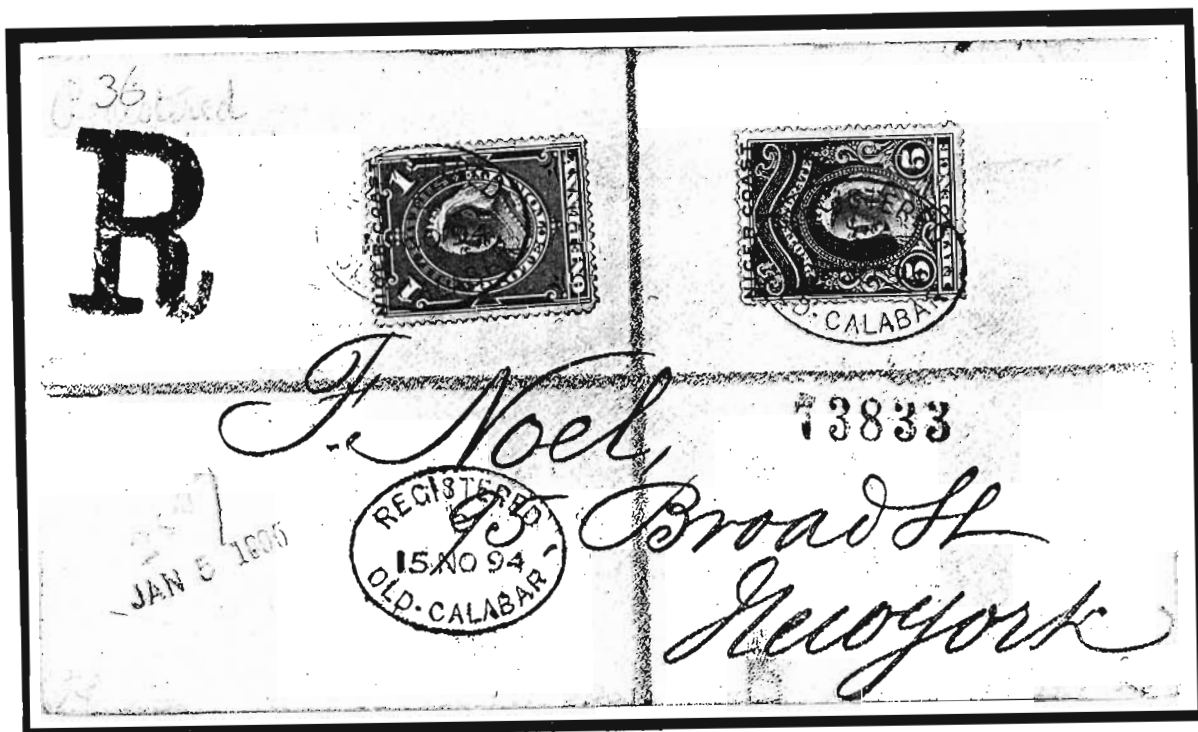


The shilling in olive is printed on thick paper.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1 January 1894 - The first issue, with "OIL RIVERS" obliterated and substituted with "NIGER COAST" in top margin.

The Protectorate was extended into the interior and the name changed to Niger Coast Protectorate on 12 May 1893.



15 November 1894 from Old Calabar to New York, arriving 5.1.1895.

The 2d is the dull blue & the 5d grey-lilac. These two values only had an additional printing later in 1894 in a different shade of the original colour.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1894 (mid) - Imperf Colour Trials of the second issue (1894)

with new designs and some colour alterations, plus the issued stamps



The shilling deep green trial is printed on thick paper.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

6 October 1894 - Parcel Post Insurance

The earliest recorded and the first issued certificate  
from the Old Calabar River post office

The Postmaster had to insert the next consecutive number  
into the box provided. In this case "One", being the first ever.

**PARCEL POST.**  
**NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.**  
**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A PARCEL.**


A Parcel prepaid — s. 9<sup>d</sup>, and addressed as under, has been posted here this day :—

Mr J. Docter Roswell  
5<sup>th</sup> Lauriston Road  
South Hackney, London

Received a Fee of — s. 5<sup>d</sup> for Insurance of  
Parcel for a Sum not exceeding \* twelve Pounds.  
\* State value in words.

Wm. Broadhurst Postmaster's Signature.

Consecutive No.  
one (1)



During 1891 the Postmaster General in London recommended to The Treasury  
that an insurance scheme for parcels be introduced:

".....into the Intercolonial Parcel Post in West Africa on the basis that the  
Imperial Post Office, as providing the sea conveyance of parcels, ....  
accept responsibility in case of loss or damage at sea and receive the usual  
insurance rate of 1d for each £12 insured".

This recommendation was copied to Gambia, Lagos & Old Calabar.

The scheme was brought into operation during the second half of 1894 with  
a maximum insurance limit of £50 but this was quickly increased to £120  
on 2 October 1894 with a minimum premium of 5d for up to £12 of cover.

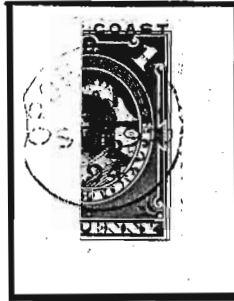
# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

May 1894 - The Opobo Provisionals

Opobo, a trading centre on the Opobo River, ran out halfpenny stamps in May 1894. As the main Post Office for the region, Old Calabar, was in a similar situation and unable to provide supplies, Opobo made their own provisionals.

Initially one sheet of 60 of the 1893 1d deep blue was surcharged and bisected vertically, making 120 provisionals.

By August 1894, the post office was again running short of halfpenny stamps and a further sheet of 60 was surcharged, but this time using the pale blue shade as per stamp below.



The shortage continued to be chronic so between August & September 1894, two sheets of the penny orange-vermilion were produced as halfpenny provisionals, in three more or less equal numbers of blue, violet & black surcharges.

The left stamp has the black & the right the violet surcharge.



## The Penny Provisional

Unfortunately, the conversion of two sheets of penny stamps into halfpennies, resulted in the penny value running short and the need for the 2d green and carmine to be surcharged with a tall numeral "1" and then bisected.

One half sheet of 60 was so surcharged making 120 1d provisionals, but this was still insufficient and in October 1894, a full sheet of 120 2d stamps were surcharged, making a total production of 360 1d provisionals.



The right hand stamp has the Double Surcharge

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

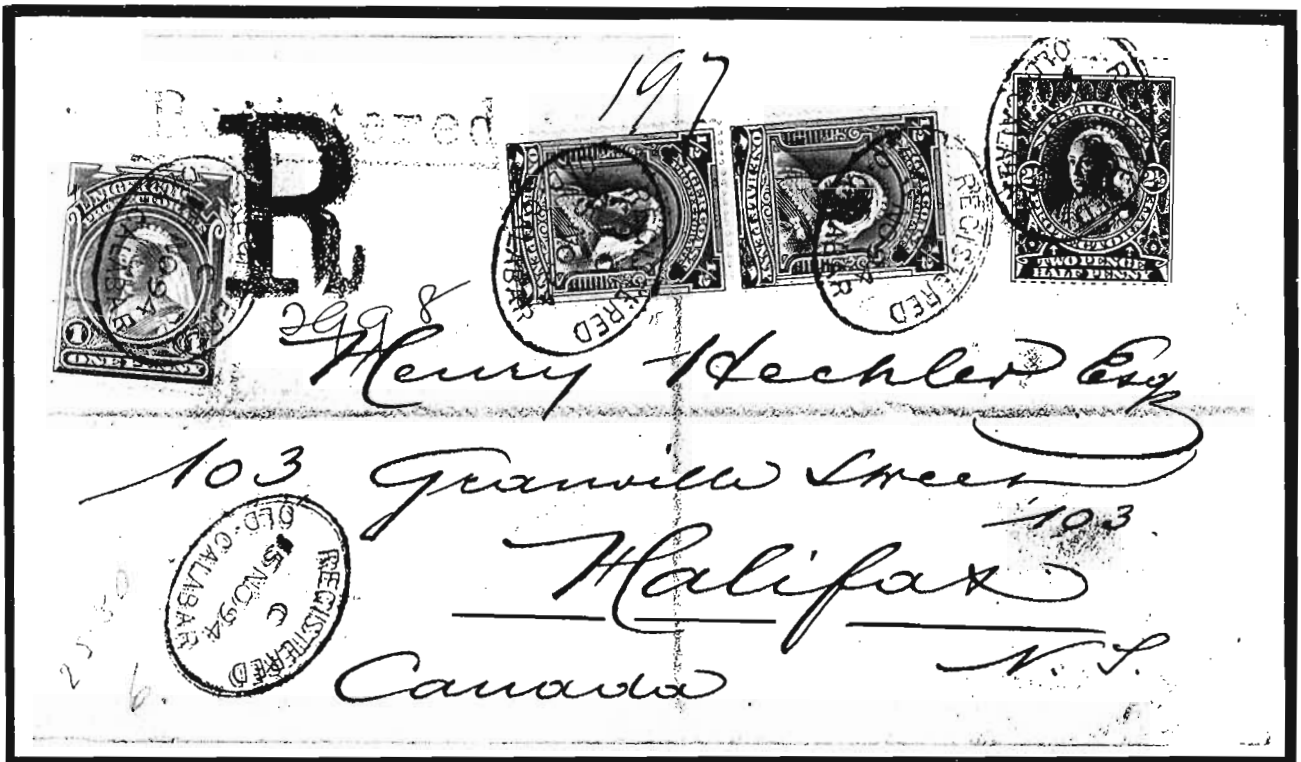
The "Large R" Registration mark - only used at Old Calabar

28 November 1894 - Old Calabar to London via Liverpool,  
arriving London 14 January 1895.

Stamped with unwatermarked January 1894 adhesives.



15 November 1894 - Old Calabar to Halifax, Canada,  
via Liverpool, arriving Halifax 6 January 1895.



Lower cover has the unwatermarked definitives of June 1894

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1894 (1 January) - Twopence halfpenny - Carmine-lake

"Oil Rivers" now obliterated with "Niger Coast" in top margin

Sheet number is shown in blue crayon manuscript - 199



Two constant flaws are found on this value:

No.21 - Dash of colour to the left of "N" in Niger

No.40 - Spot of colour in bottom left corner which can appear in the top left corner of stamp no.48 if the perforations are cut high.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

August/September 1894 - The Penny Bisect.

Only used at Bonny during the stated period due to halfpenny shortage



1894 One Penny on cover with the seldom recorded Brass River datestamp



1897 - Crown CA watermarked issue - 2d lake with reversed watermark



Variety appears on both the mint & used example

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1894 - The Old Calabar Halfpenny Provisional

In spite of producing provisional halfpenny overprints from the Jubilee surcharges, the post office at Old Calabar again ran out of halfpenny stamps in August 1894.

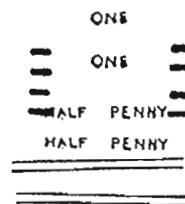
To meet demand the 1894 2.5d was surcharged "HALF PENNY"



## The Double Surcharge

The surcharge was set up in one horizontal row of eight, with slight variations in spacing and measurement.

There were, therefore, at least eight Double Surcharges printed.



The surcharge was applied by a small Albion handpress that was used to print the Imperial Commissioner's menus



20 sheets of 48 stamps of the 2.5d were surcharged with the provisional, making a total of 960 "halfpenny" stamps.

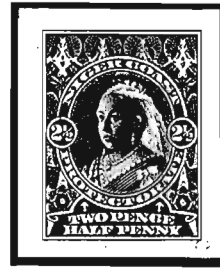
# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1897 - New and watermarked issue with three new values

Specimens of the three new values - 6d, 2s 6d & 10s



The issued stamps



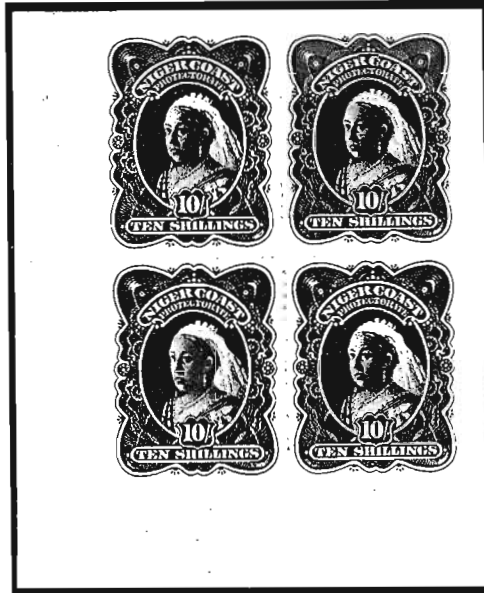
Owing to temporary shortages in Southern Nigeria, the above issue was again in use at various times from 1902 until 1907

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1898 - The two shades of the Ten Shillings.

These were printed in sheets of twenty, five across & four down.

Constant flaws 16 & 17 can be seen on the lower pair of each block.



Top block is SG 98 - Deep Violet; lower is SG 98a - Bright Violet



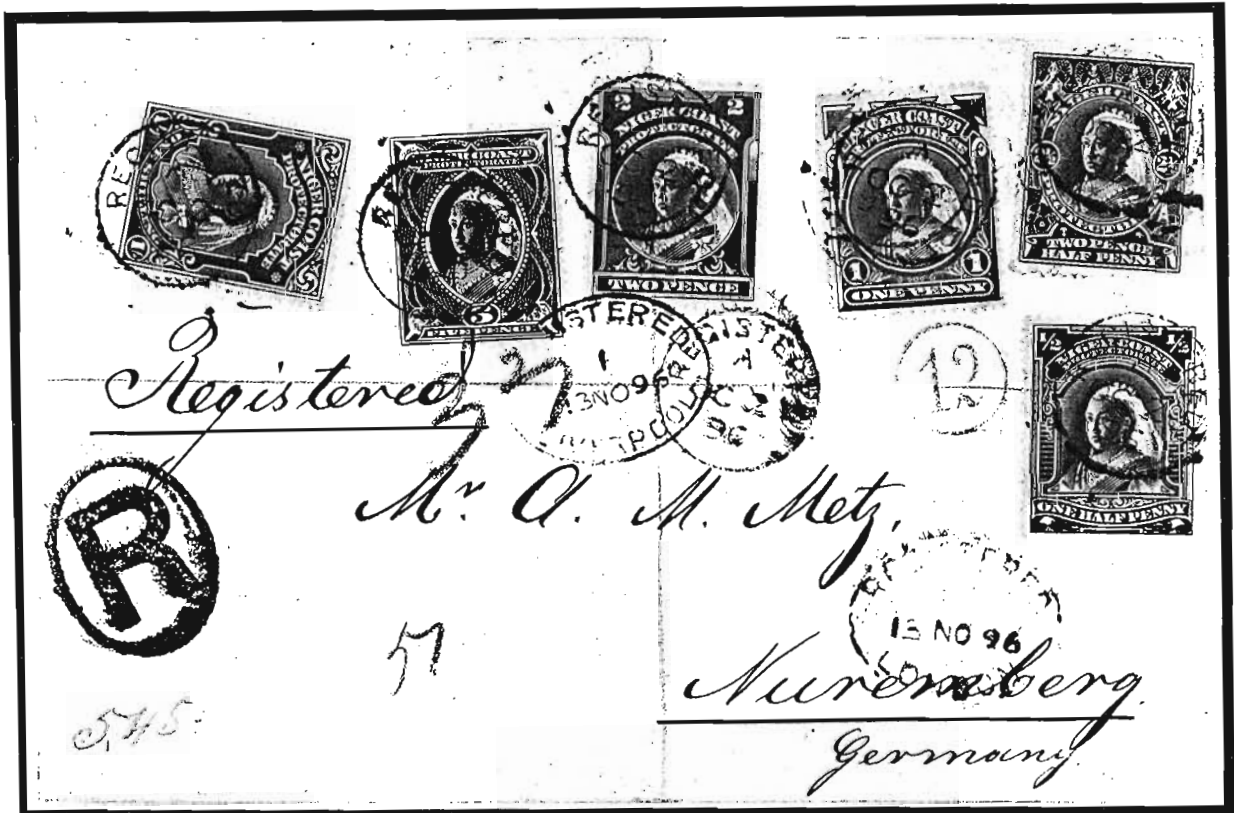
Flaw no.16 - "Dot" in first "E" of Protectorate & cut in second "I" of shillings.

Flaw no.17 - Retouched frame above top centre pearls.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

May 1894 - Overseas usage of the second issue

7 June 1895 Old Calabar River to Bournemouth, via Liverpool,  
arriving 16 June 1895



2 October 1896 Old Calabar to Nuremberg, via London, arriving 14.11.1896.

The plain registered CDS on the lower cover was only used at Old Calabar,  
similarly the "R" in an oval was only used at this office.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1897 - The 2.5d Slate-blue watermarked definitive

384



Few complete sheets are recorded.

This sheet is from the first printing as determined from the sheet number, 384, and also the shade.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1897 - The 2.5d Deep Bright Blue watermarked definitive

941



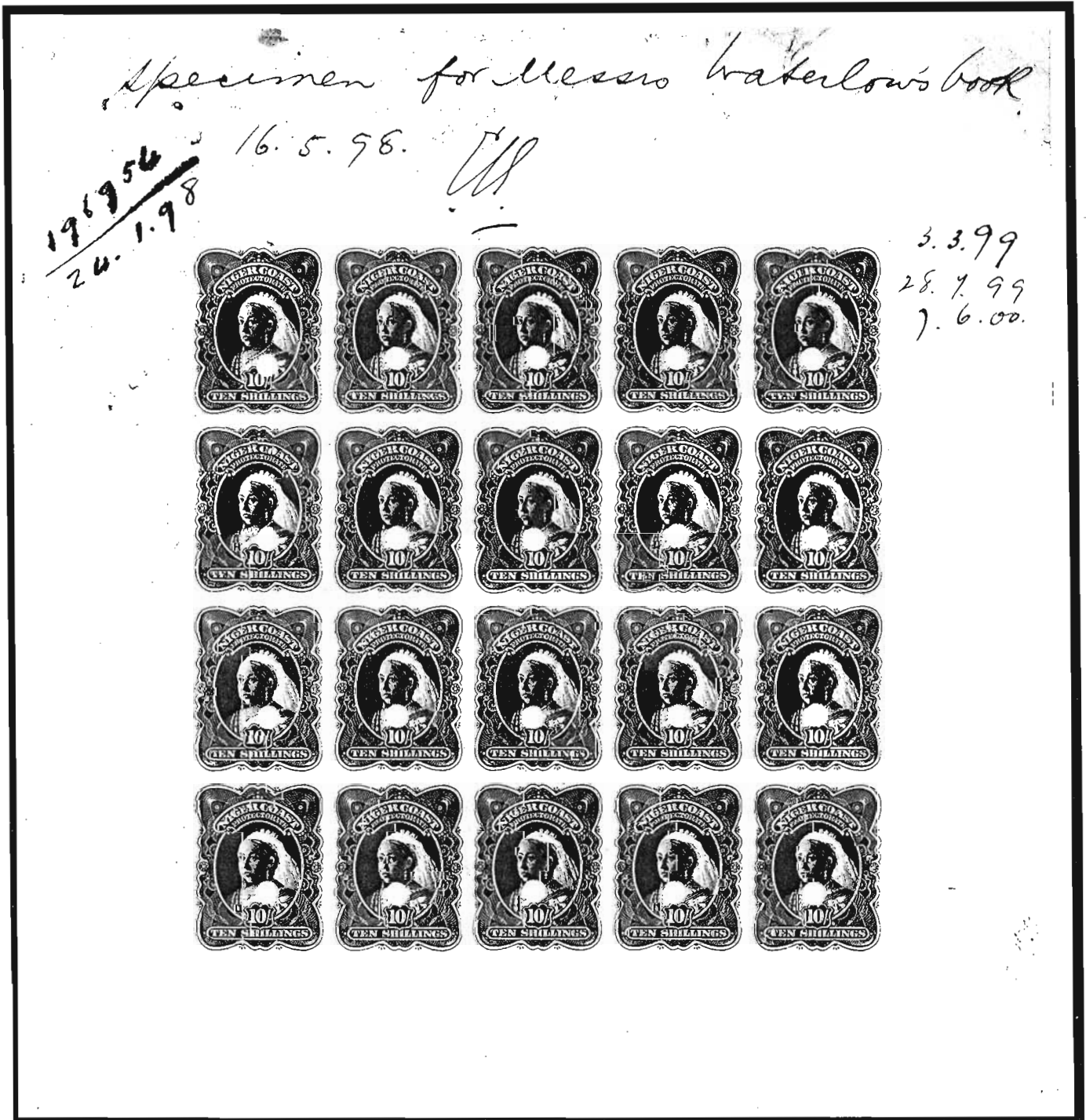
Few complete sheets are recorded.

This sheet is from the first printing as determined from the sheet number, 941, and also the shade.

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1898 (May) - Specimen sheet of the 10s, ex Waterlow archives

The first printing was produced in May 1898 and the dates of the three subsequent printings are on the right, in manuscript



Four stamps on the sheet have constant flaws:

No.11 - Several very fine engraving lines at top centre

No.12 - A "dash" in the "N" of Niger

No.16 - "Dot" in first "E" of Protectorate & cut in second "I" of shillings

No.17 - Retouched frame above top centre pearls.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1898 - 2s 6d Consular & Specimen overprints, ex Waterlow Archives.

196954

24.1.98

1488

9 Row

Specimen for Messrs Waterlow  
for words "Consular" & "specimen"  
US 3/6/98



Position & Colour  
of word "Consular"  
Correct  
19/6/98  
JWR

Prof Red  
specimen copies  
JWR

IMPERFORATE PRINTER'S FILE SHEET FROM THE  
FIRST PRINTING OF 1898. PENCILLED NOTE  
IN UPPER RIGHT MARGIN DATED 25 MAY 1898  
REQUESTS THAT THE 'SPECIMEN' OVERPRINT IS A  
SHADE HIGHER TO MATCH THE 'CONSULAR' POSITION

210

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1894 (June) - One shilling - black

Complete sheet of 30

Sheet number 418 from the second of the three printings



A

This value has one constant flaw on all three printings:

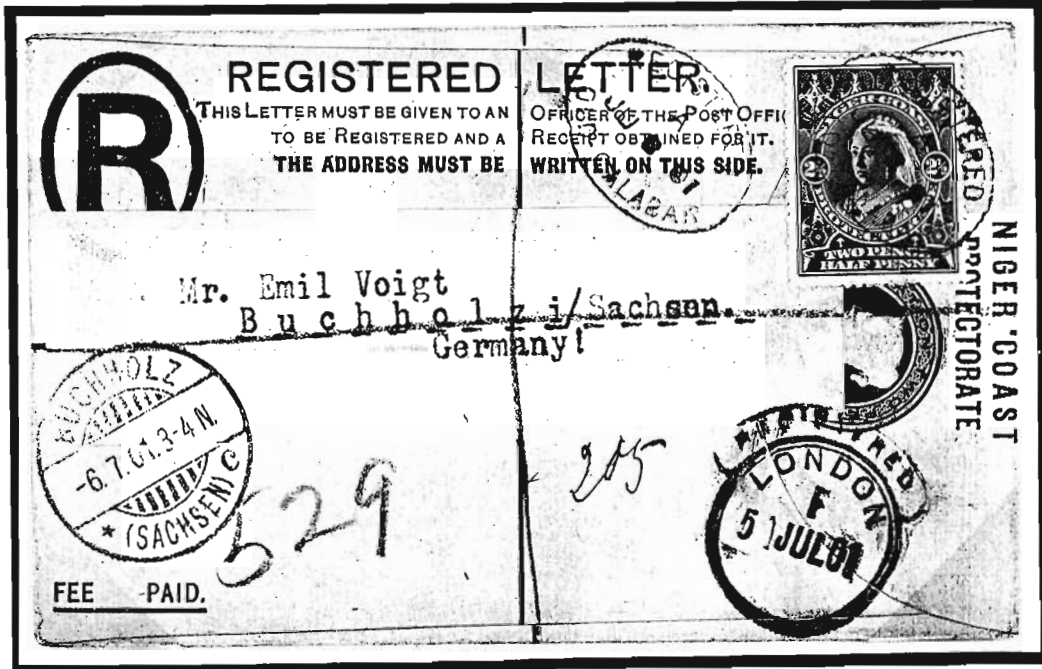
No.30 - Dots & dash above the "O" of Coast

# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

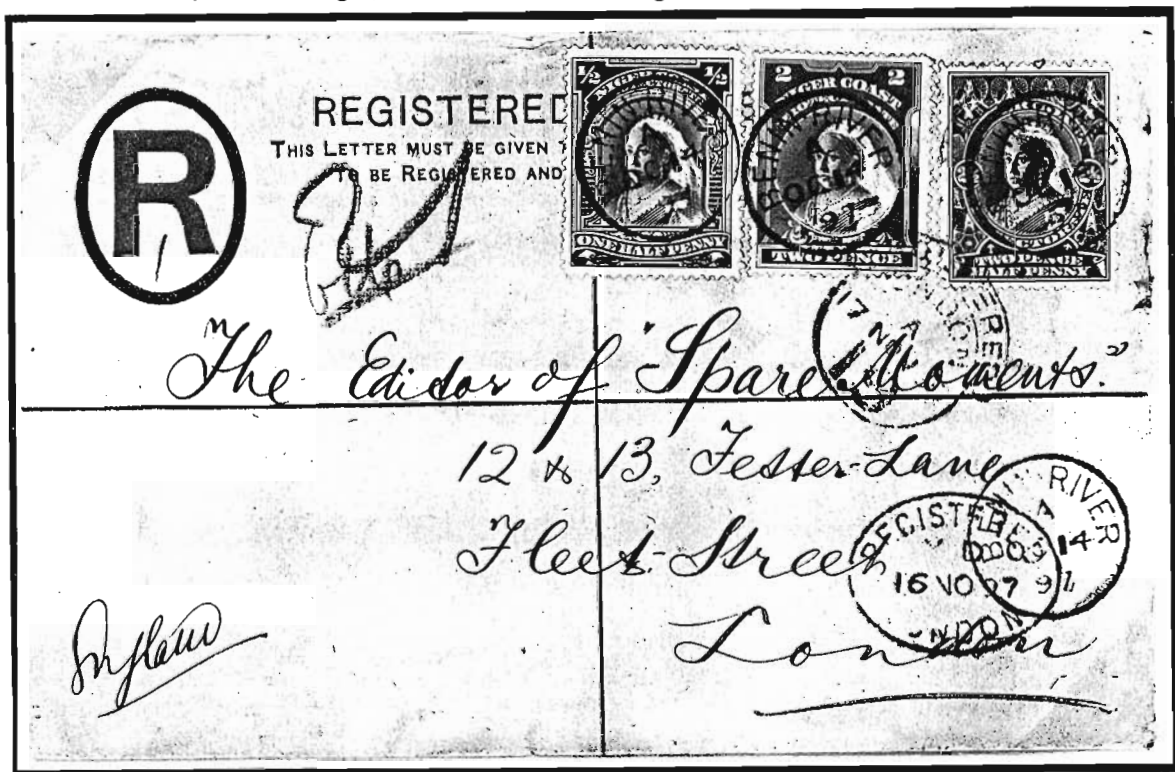
1894 & 1897 - Two types of Registration Envelope

1894 Type - Embossed flap on the front of the envelope.

8 June 1901 to Germany, via London, arriving Sachsen 6 July 1901, with London receiving datestamp in purple.



1897 - New design with embossed flap on the reverse, showing a square design, also inscribed "Niger Coast Protectorate".



14 October 1897 - Benin River to London, with two London receiving datestamps - black & red, arriving 16/17 November 1897.

Double rate cover - 5d postage & 2d registration (on flap).

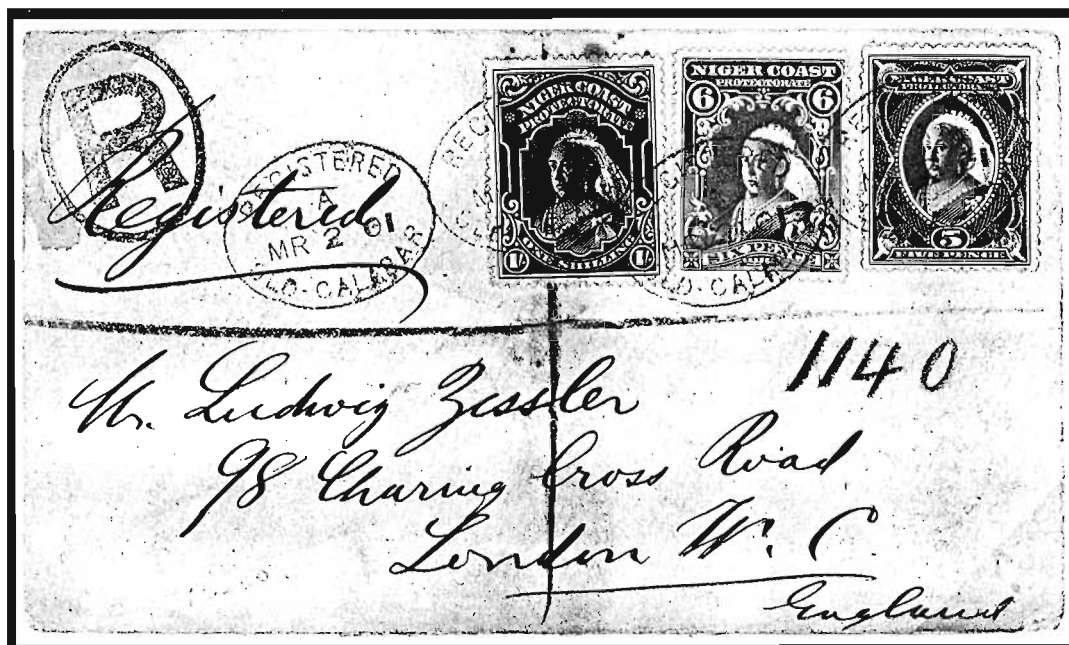
# NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE

1899 - Registered cover to Germany

6 January 1899 - Old Calabar to Baden-Baden, arriving 4.2.1899,  
via Liverpool on 2 February & London 3 February 1899.



2 March 1901 - Old Calabar to London, arriving 2 March 1901  
The 1897 5d is rarely recorded on cover



Although Niger Coast Protectorate & the southern part of the the  
Niger Territories became Southern Nigeria on 1 January 1901,  
the stamps of Southern Nigeria were not available until later in 1901.

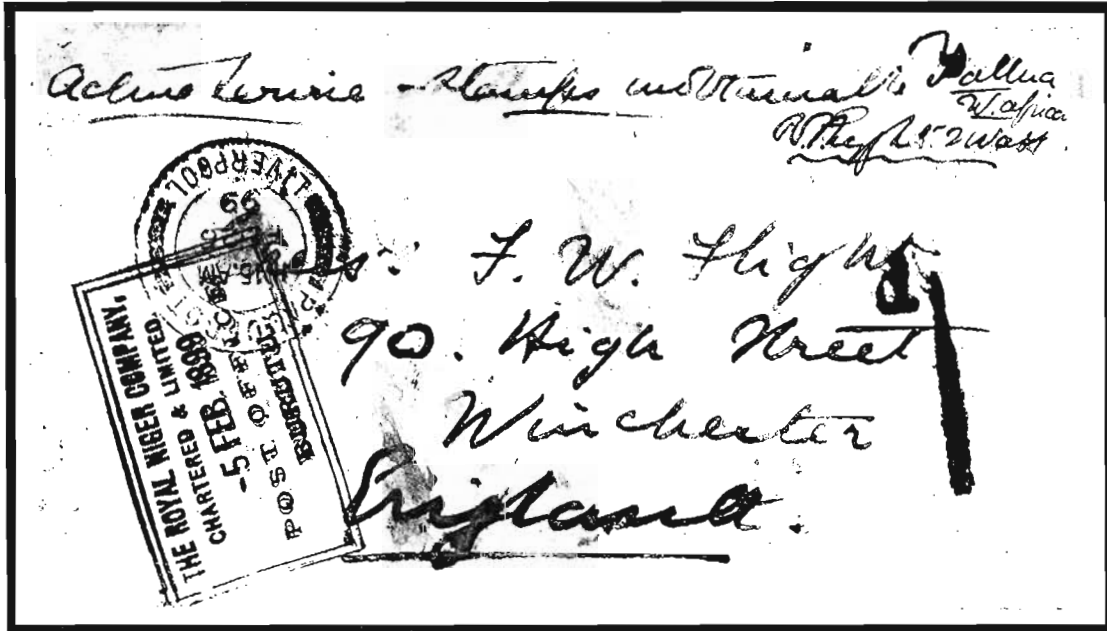
Until the Southern Nigeria stamps arrived, Niger Coast stamps were  
used and also during a stamp shortage of the new stamps in mid 1902.

# NIGER COMPANY TERRITORIES

1899 - One Penny concession rate for Soldiers

"Active service - stamps unobtainable"

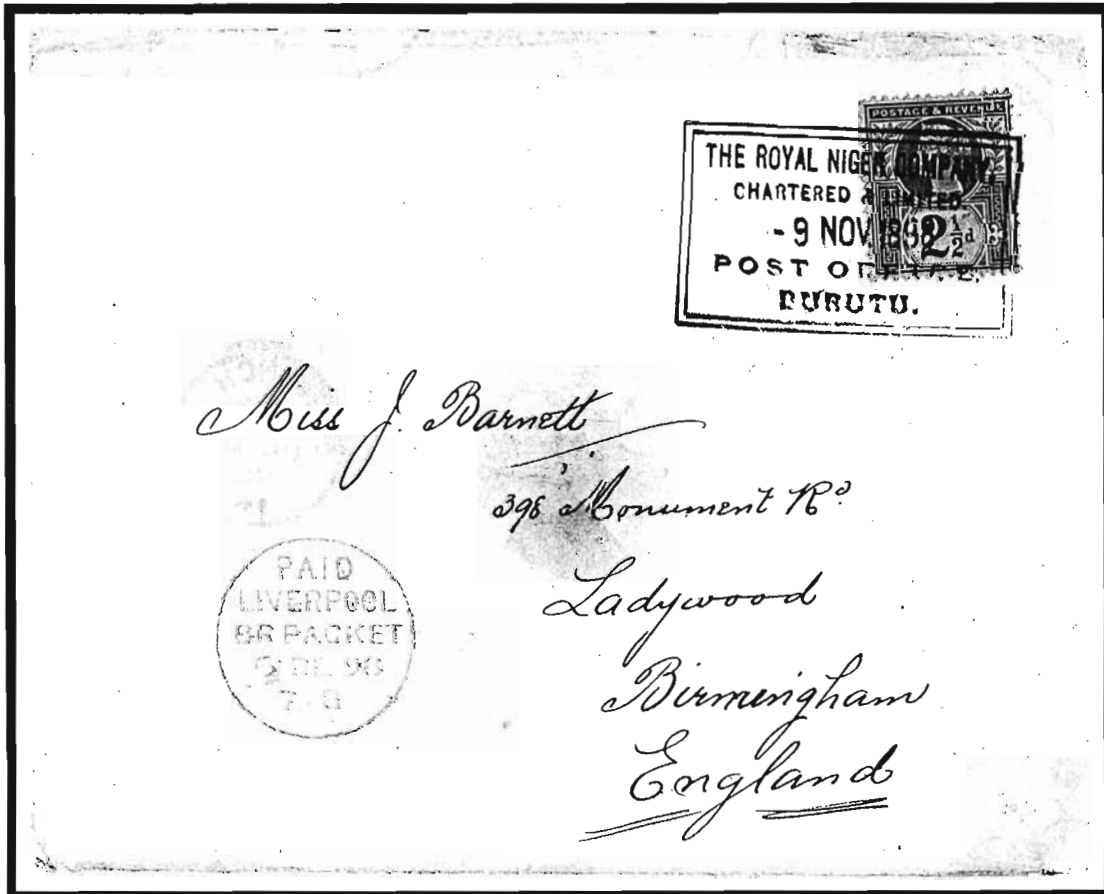
5 February 1899 - Letter from soldier with West African Frontier Force.  
Letter passed through The Royal Niger Company - Burutu, and arrived  
at Liverpool on 26 February 1899.



Stamps were available later that year as shown by lower cover,  
dated stamped Burutu 7 October 1899, arriving Scotland 10 November 1899

NIGER COMPANY TERRITORIES

22 July 1897 - Akassa to Lyon, France arriving 26.8.97



9 November 1898 - Burutu to Birmingham, arriving 6 December 1898

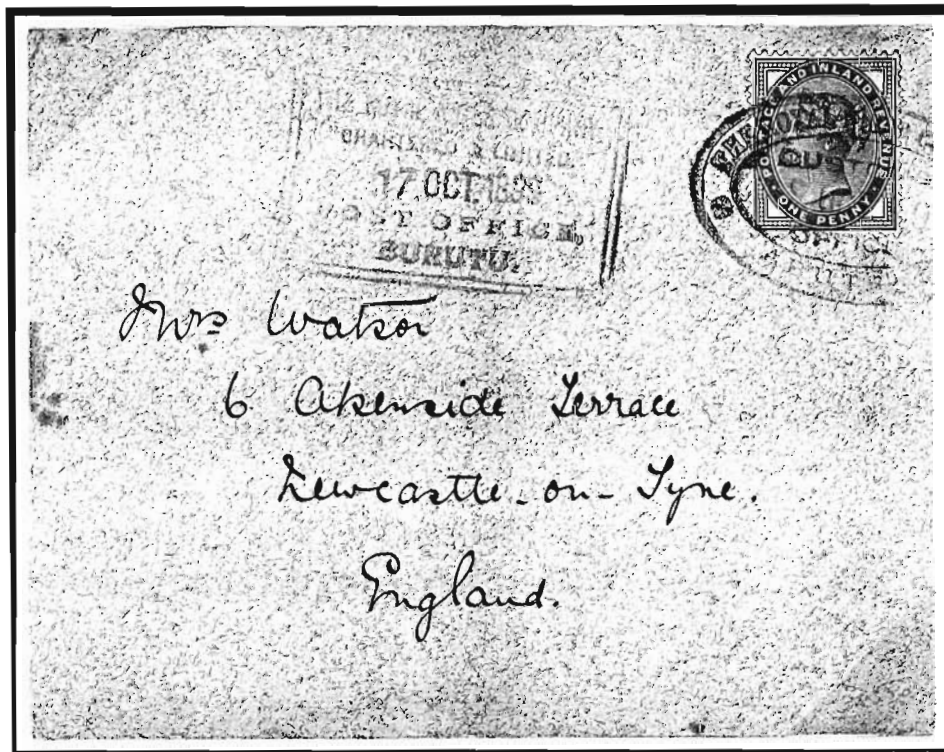
## NIGER COMPANY TERRITORIES

9 October 1899 - The Abutshi handstamp on G.B. adhesives

This was a very small settlement and it is possible that this handstamp was used incorrectly and without formal GPO authorisation.

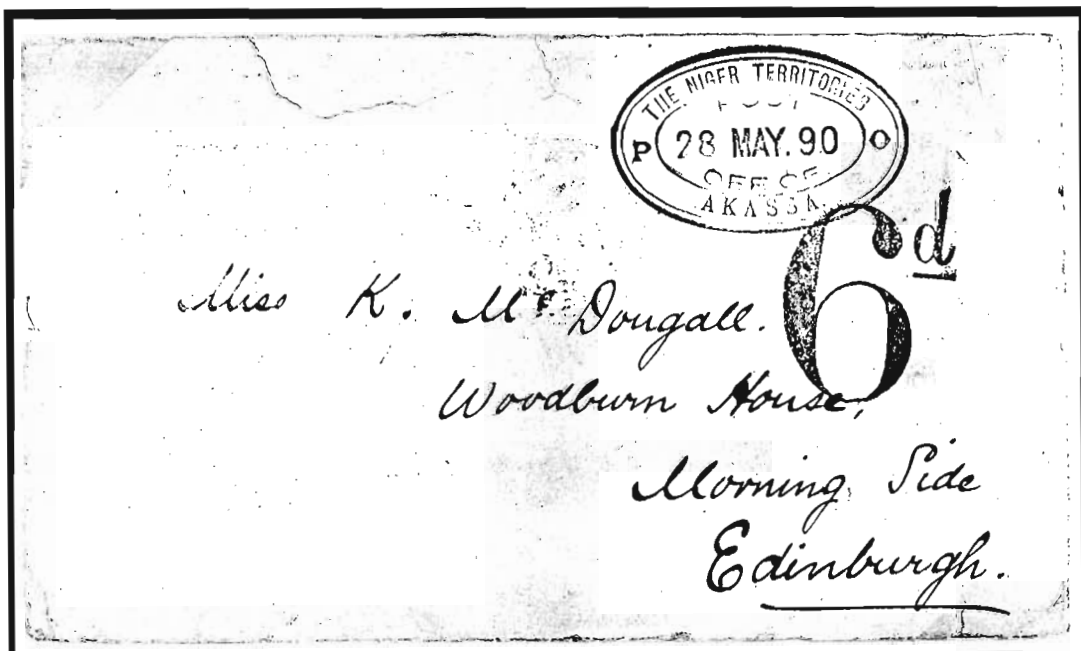
As a result, mail was additionally stamped with the Company's Burutu datestamp on arrival at Burutu to ensure that the mail did not attract any surcharge upon arrival in U.K. as per GPO contract.

Only one other Abutshi cover is recorded by Ince & Sacher.



28 May 1890 - Akassa handstamp & without adhesives, to Scotland.

This cover & six others are recorded by Ince & Sacher.

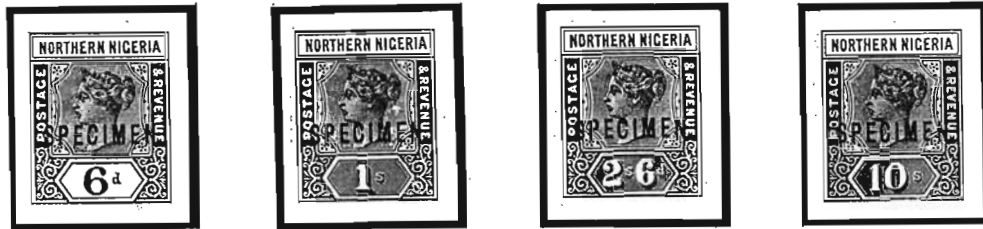


The "6d" charge was applied on arrival at Liverpool, 6.7.1890.

# NORTHERN NIGERIA

April 1900 - Specimens of the first definitives

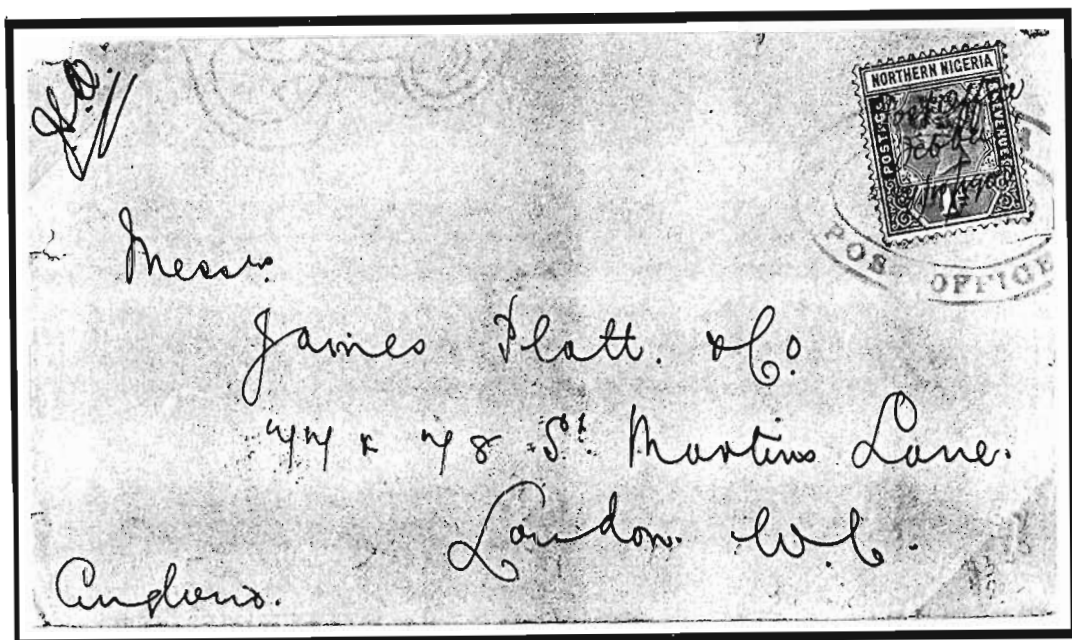
Typographed by De La Rue



The issue had a very short life being replaced by the King Edward VII definitive in July 1902

24 October 1900 - 1d cancelled in manuscript "Post Office Jebba 24/10/1900"

The adhesive was subsequently additionally cancelled by the "LOKOJA - POST OFFICE" datestamp on 28 October 1900.



The letter arrived in London on 26 November 1900

