

**WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE**  
(The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria, St. Helena, Ascension)

ASCENSION ISLAND

THE CROWN AGENTS RECORDS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

by P O Beale FRPS,L

CONTENTS

PAGE	
1 - 2	Essay and Proof material
3	Specimen stamps overprinted and punctured
4 - 11	Stamps. Despatch dates and numbers supplied between 1922 and 1970.
12	Stocks held for dealers. 1963 Stamp Booklets

Based on Crown Agents' Requisition Books and Colonial StampBooks

---

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 copyholder. Application for this should be addressed to the Secretary of the Circle. Such written permission should be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.

Ascension stamp material in The British Library Philatelic Collections.

The volumes of "Crown Agents' Colonial Stamps" Nos 1 and 2 contain the following items. All are stuck down. Colours are as noted by John Attwood and Philip Beale.

1922. Stamps of St Helena overprinted Ascension.

The set perforated, overprinted in black with the exception of the 1/- in red. the 1/- is marked emerald paper, though philatelists would be likely to call the paper green. The 1/- marked old watermark. Each stamp described as S F [ single fugitive ink ].

1924 Definitive stamps.

The stamps as issued in 1924 each perforated and from position 24, i.e. with two diagonal breaks in the white frame above Ascension. The 5d value marked 1927. The 1½d and 3d in single colours are marked S F and the other values show the vignette S F and the frame D F [ doubly fugitive ]. Additionally, there is a ½d grey and black and a 2d grey-black and grey from the 1st printing. A 3/- imperforate proof is marked approved JAB 3.6.24, a 1d imperforate proof in blue-green and grey is marked 1932, and a 5d imperforate proof in olive-green and lilac is marked 1927 req [requisition].

1934 Definitive stamps.

Imperforate proofs ½d violet frame, black vignette not approved  
 3d steel blue frame, black vignette ditto.  
 2/6 brown frame, black vignette ditto.  
 5/- magenta frame, black vignette ditto.  
 3d pale blue frame, black vignette ditto  
 ½d and 3d as issued colours approved 3.4.34.

Perforated stamps 1d 1½d 2d 5d 8d 1/- approved JAB 3.4.34.

2/6 and 5/- approved JAB 6.4.34. 3d approved JAB 3.4.34.

Two sets perforated in issued colours, one marked CP [presumed coated paper]

1935 Silver Jubilee.

15 imperforate colour trials in differing colour combinations without value or country name. Those approved by the King are so marked.

For Ascension there is an imperforate proof of a 5d with blue vignette and olive green frame marked not approved 5.12. A further imperforate proof in the issued colours of the 5d is marked approved 8th. Two sets of the stamps are shown, one imperforate, one perforated. Each has grey clouds.

## Crown Agents' Colonial Stamps cont

1938 Definitive stamps.

The stamps as issued from the first printing, ½d 1d 1½d 2d 3d 4d 6d 1/- 2/- 5/- and 10/-. 1d yellow and black marked 1940, 1d in a paler shade of green than that shown for the first printing, undated. 1½d rose and black undated. 2d pale scarlet undated. 3d grey and black undated. Alongside the first printing of the 1/- is the note 'DLR's block rather browner'.

## Imperforate proofs

1d yellow and black marked approved 31.1.40. Also dated 1.2.40.

1d dull green and black approved 19.1.49 Three sisters vignette.

1½d rose carmine and black not approved 9.9.48

1½d similar rose carmine and black approved 28.9.48.

2d pale scarlet and black not approved 9.9.48.

2d scarlet and black approved 28.9.48.

3d grey and black approved 15 and 16.2.40.

4d ultramarine and black approved 28 and 29.2.40.

10/- bright magenta and black not approved 10.11.37.

10/- deeper magenta and black approved 10.12.37.

½d 1d 1½d 2d 3d 1/- and 2/6 in issued colours all marked approved 27.10.37. 'except for border of 2/6'. The 2/6 border is a dull rose carmine.

6d 2/6 5/- approved 10.11.37. The 2/6 border is now a brighter rose carmine.

Victory. Royal Silver Wedding. Anniversary of U P U. Coronation. 1946-1953.

The stamps as issued.

1956 Definitive stamps.

## Imperforate proofs

1d and 2d not approved 9.11.55.

1d approved 22.11.55. Details on the vignette are now paler. Magenta and black.

2d approved 22.11.55. The countries shown are now far darker. Black and red.

The remaining stamps in the set imperforate and approved 27.4.55.

-----

Most of the remaining stamps issued for Ascension were shown to us, being mainly imperforate stamps mounted on individual cards. Minor changes required were noted on the backs of the cards and the date of approval shown.

Specimen stamps

These were supplied by The Crown Agents to The Universal Postal Union and were then despatched to those countries which were members, each receiving a small number of the stamps. They were sent to enable members to authenticate stamps seen on mail. Most stamps supplied to the Union were in mint condition but it was the Crown Agents' practice by 1921 to overprint stamps with the word Specimen to prevent their postal use. When it was discovered that stamps were known used with the overprint erased, it was decided to puncture stamps with the word Specimen. That practice was abandoned in 1946 when it was realised that punctured stamps were being sold at a premium over the mint stamps.

Year	Stamps	Numbers sent to U P U	Overprint/Puncture type
1922	Definitives	413	D12a
1924	Definitives	409	D16
1927	Definitive 5d	422	D16
1934	Definitives	425	D19
1935	Silver Jubilee	421	W8
1937	Coronation	416	D20
1938	Definitives	397	D20
1940	Definitives 1d, 3d	404	D20
1946	Victory	363	D21

Types are taken from Marcus Samuel's 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies'. A local handstamp, known as SL2, is known on some stamps and is discussed in the Circle's St Helena Supplement No 1. It was used in St Helena and Samuel records it on the 1922 issue.

Forgeries

Types W8 and D20 have been seen forged on various colonial stamps but, for obvious reasons, detailed information about them cannot be given. The Expert Committees can give Certificates if differences are noticed as between the punctures on two stamps.

Collections

The National Postal Museum has a display of all Specimen stamps received from The Universal Postal Union.

Numbers despatched of the postage stamps from 1922 to 1970.

Figures are taken from the Crown Agents' Requisition Books and in a few cases from the De La Rue Private Day Books. In the early 1920s The Crown Agents started to set aside stamps for dealers and those numbers are usually indicated in the records. In the second world war stocks were put aside in a Bureau and when an order came through this was often met from existing stock: sometimes an exchange took place and a despatch would consist of a mixture of stock and a new printing. Orders for Ascension stamps came from St Helena and the records show that often a despatch was divided between the two islands, the larger portion generally going to St Helena.

1922. De La Rue. Wmk Mult Script CA excepting the 1/- Wmk Mult Crown CA.  
All despatched 11th Oct 1922. Sheets in multiples of 60.

½d	993	2d	970	1/-	976
1d	988	3d	994	2/-	981
1½d	997	8d	1,001	3/-	1,015

1924 - 1933. De La Rue. Wmk Mult Script CA.

First despatch 16th July 1924. Sheets in multiples of 60.

½d	1,019	3d	1,015	1/-	1,004
1d	1,033	4d	997	2/-	1,000
1½d	1,010	6d	1,006	3/-	1,027
2d	922	8d	987		

Subsequent despatches

½d	27 Sep 1927	511	2d	27 Sep 1927	503
	17 Feb 1932	1,025		25 Mar 1930	1,006
1d	17 Feb 1932	1,007	5d	23 Jul 1927	339
				25 Mar 1930	1,004

1934 - 1937. De La Rue. Wmk Mult Script CA

First despatch to Ascension 8th May 1934. To St Helena 11th May 1934.  
Sheets in multiples of 60.

½d	1,243	3d	388	1/-	247
1d	1,029	5d	397	2/6	157
1½d	834	8d	261	5/-	106
2d	684				

Subsequent despatches

½d	17 June 35	1,052	5d	22 May 36	300
	22 May 36	541		28 Apr 37	188
	16 Oct 36	1,000	8d	22 May 36	268
	2 Feb 37	2,000		16 Oct 36	97
				28 Ap 37	190
1d	17 June 35	1,043	1/-	22 May 36	303
	17 Dec 36	500		16 Oct 36	95
	2 Feb 37	980		28 Apr 37	100
1½d	22 May 36	301	2/6	22 May 36	105
	16 Oct 36	245		16 Oct 36	84
	17 Dec 36	530	5/-	22 May 36	94
	2 Feb 37	847		28 Apr 37	95
2d	17 June 35	517			
	17 Dec 36	253			
	22 July 37	516			
3d	22 May 36	421			
	17 Dec 36	261			
	22 July 37	536			

1935. Silver Jubilee. Waterlow. Wmk Mult Script CA.

First despatch 6th March 1935. Sheets in multiples of 60.

1½d	550	2d	692	5d	344	1/-	280
-----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----

Second despatch 2nd July 1935.

1½d	289	2d	321	5d	201	1/-	211
-----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----

Undated. King Edward 8th.

Stamps of values ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d and 6d were ordered but not printed.

1937. Coronation. De La Rue. Wmk Mult Script C A.

First despatch 8th and 9th April 1937. To Ascension 1d 120 sheets, 2d 160, and 3d 160. The balance to St Helena. Sheets in multiples of 60.

1d	4,505	2d	4,375	3d	4,000
----	-------	----	-------	----	-------

Subsequent despatches

Undated for the second despatch. Two despatches during July 37 are totalled.

1d	4,420	2d	2,113	3d	1,858
22 July 37	659	22 July 37	1,066	6 May 37	500
24 Aug 37	419	24 Aug 37	220	22 July 37	976
20 Oct 37	880	20 Oct 37	440	24 Aug 37	458
				20 Oct 37	330

1946. Victory. De La Rue.

Despatched 10 Sep 46. and 22.Oct 46. Sheets in multiples of 60.

2d	11,395	4d	11,810	Bureau	600,000	of each stamp
----	--------	----	--------	--------	---------	---------------

1948. Royal Silver Wedding. 3d Waterlow. 10/- Bradbury Wilkinson.

3d despatched 17 Aug 46 and 15 Sep 46. No date given for 10/- but entries above and below are for 21 Sep 46. Sheets in multiples of 60.

3d	12,800	10/-	2,300	Bureau 3d	450,000	10/-	120,000	stamps
----	--------	------	-------	-----------	---------	------	---------	--------

1949. Anniversary of Universal Postal Union. 3d & 1/- Waterlow.

4d & 6d Bradbury Wilkinson. Sheets in multiples of 60.

3d and 1/- despatched 29 June 49. 4d and 6d despatched 11 May 49.

3d	8,090	4d	5,000	6d	5,000	1/-	5,000
----	-------	----	-------	----	-------	-----	-------

1953. Coronation. De La Rue. Bureau 3d 360,000 others 240,000 stamps

Despatched 18 Feb 53. Sheets in multiples of 60.

3d	8,650	Bureau	1,000	sheets
----	-------	--------	-------	--------

1938 - 1955 Definitive stamps. De La Rue. Wmk Mult Script CA.

First despatch  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 3d and 2/6d on 10.3. and 5.5.38.: 6d and 1/- on 7.5.38: 5/- and 10/- on 7.4.38. Sheets in multiples of 60.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d	8,100	1d	2,790	$1\frac{1}{2}$ d	2,813
2d	2,305	3d	1,737	6d	1,585
1/-	885	2/6d	600	5/-	420
10/-	249				

Subsequent despatches, though those marked 19.1.49 may not have been sent.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d	30 Mar and 26 May 44	7,123	1d	20 Mar 40 new colour	1,666 $\frac{2}{3}$
	12 Nov 48	4,303		23 Apr 42	1,583 $\frac{2}{3}$
	7 Jan 53	4,400		30 Mar and 26 May 44	3,675
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d	30 Mar and 26 May 44	3,890		12 Apr 46	1,024
	12 Apr 46	450		19 Jan 49	1,000
	19 Jan 49	600		23 & 30 Mar 49 new colour	4,400
	23 & 30 Mar 49 new colour	4,060		7 Jan 53	1,210
	7 Jan 53	1,110		15 Aug 55	1,512
	23 Nov 54	500	2d	30 Mar and 26 May 44	2,165
3d	20 & 22 Mar 40 new colour	1,951 $\frac{1}{3}$		6 Feb 46	1,250
	30 Mar and 26 May 44	2,189		19 Jan 49	400
	6 Feb 46	1,050		23 & 30 Mar 49 new colour	3,923
	10 Nov 50	880	4d	20 & 22 Mar 40	1,272 $\frac{1}{3}$
	3 Oct 51	450		27 Apr 44	916
6d	27 Apr 44	491		20 Sep and 5 Oct 44	333 $\frac{1}{3}$
	6 Feb 46	1,297		7 Feb and 1 Mar 45	501
1/-	27 Apr 44	482		3 Oct 51	450
	29 Sep and 5 Oct 44	133 $\frac{1}{3}$	5/-	27 Apr 44	241
	7 Feb and 1 Mar 45	343		20 Sep and 5 Oct 44	83 $\frac{1}{3}$
	12 Apr 46	457		7 Feb and 1 Mar 45	334
	11 Dec 53	50	10/-	16 May 44	170
	23 Nov 54	307		20 Sep and 5 Oct 44	33 $\frac{1}{3}$
2/6	27 Apr 44	345		7 Feb and 1 Mar 45	345
	29 Sep and 5 Oct 44	150			
	7 Feb and 1 Mar 45	255			

1956 - 62. Definitive stamps. Bradbury Wilkinson.

Despatched 31 July 56. In multiples of 60.

	Sheets to Asc	Sheets to St H	Stamps to Bureau
½d	100	985	390,000
1d	100	740	120,000
1½d	100	810	120,000
2d	200	875	120,000
2½d	100	425	120,000
3d	100	1,515	120,000
4d	100	400	90,000
6d	100	450	90,000
7d	100	400	90,000
1/-	100	450	90,000
2/6	25	195	60,000
5/-	25	195	60,000
10/-	25	175	30,000

Subsequent despatches

½d	12 Mar 58	110	1½d	12 Mar 58	100
	16 June 59	50			
	30 Apr 62	2,934			

1963. Definitive stamps. Harrison.

Despatched 3 April 63. Sheets in multiples of 60.

	Sheets	Stamps to St H.	Stamps to Asc.	Stamps to Bureau
1d	900	48,000	6,000	360,000
1½d	900	48,000	6,000	199,980
2d	900	48,000	6,000	199,980
3d	900	48,000	6,000	199,980
4½d	500	24,000	6,000	200,040
6d	500	24,000	6,000	199,980
7d	460	24,000	3,600	200,040
10d	460	24,000	3,600	200,040
1/-	460	24,000	3,600	200,040
1/6	460	24,000	3,600	150,000
2/6	230	12,000	1,800	150,000
5/-	230	12,000	1,800	100,020
10/-	230	12,000	1,800	75,000
£1	230	12,000	1,800	75,000

1966. World Health Organization Headquarters. Harrison.Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways. Sheets in multiples of 50. 400 sheets to Asc 100 to St H.

3d	6.8.66.	500 sheets	Bureau	1000 sheets
1/6d	"	500 "	Bureau	800 sheets

1966. Opening of Apollo Communications Satellite Earth Station.

Harrison.Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways. Sheets in multiples of 50.

4d	15 & 29.9.66.	St H.	500	Asc.	1000	Bureau	1000 sheets
8d	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1/3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2/6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

1966. Opening of B B C Relay Station. Harrison.Wmk St Edward's Crown. CA. Sheets in multiples of 60.

1d	1.8.66.	St H	300	Asc	834	Bureau	3000 sheets
3d	"	"	"	"	"	Bureau	1200 "
6d	"	"	"	"	"	Bureau	" "
1/6	"	"	"	"	"	Bureau	" "

1967. 20th Anniversary of U N E S C O. Harrison.Wmk St Edward's Crown sideways. Sheets in multiples of 50.

3d	24/27.10.66.	St H	300	Asc	400	Bureau	1200 sheets
6d	"	"	"	"	"	Bureau	1000 "
1/6	"	"	"	"	"	Bureau	1000 "

1968. Human Rights Year. Harrison. Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways.

Multiples in sheets of 60(?50).

6d	13.6.68.	St H	30,000	Asc	60,000	Bureau	60,000 stamps
1/6	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
2/6	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "

1963. Freedom from hunger. Harrison Wmk Mult St Edward's Crown CA.

Sheets in multiples of 60.

1/6	1900 sheets	Bureau	79,980 stamps
-----	-------------	--------	---------------

1963. Red Cross Centenary. Bradbury Wilkinson Wmk St Edward's Crown CA.Sheets in multiples of 60.

3d	17.7.63.	300 sheets	
	24.7.63.	300 sheets	Bureau 100,020 stamps

1/6	17.7.63.	258 sheets	
	24.7.63.	200 sheets	Bureau 100,020 stamps

1965. I.T.U. Centenary. Enschede Wmk St Edward's Crown CA.

Sheets in multiples of 60. No date given for despatch.

3d	1850	6d	1650	Bureau no record
----	------	----	------	------------------

1965. International Co-operation year. Harrison Wmk St Edward's Crown CA.

Sheets in multiples of 60.

1d	18.8.65. & 22.8.65.	600 sheets	Bureau 72,000 stamps
6d	Ditto	400 sheets	Bureau 72,000 stamps

1966. Winston Churchill. Harrison Wmk St Edward's Crown CA.

Sheets in multiples of 60. Sheets sent to St H 100, to Asc 600 each value.

1d	25.10.65.	700 sheets	Bureau 3334 sheets
3d	"	700 "	Bureau 2500 "
6d	"	700 "	Bureau 2500 "
1/6	"	700 "	Bureau 4000 "

1966. World Cup Football. Harrison Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways.

Sheets in multiples of 50. Sheets sent to Asc 300, to St H 100 each value.

3d	10.5.66.	400 sheets	Bureau 1500 sheets
6d	"	400 "	Bureau 1500 "

1968. Fish (1st Series). De La Rue. Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways.

Sheets in multiples of 60.

4d	10.10.68.	St Helena	30,000	Asc	60,000	Bureau	75,000
8d	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1/9d	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2/3d	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

1969. Fish (2nd Series). Details as for 1st series.

4d	12.2.69.	Despatched	165,000			Bureau	60,000
6d	"	"	150,000			"	"
1/6d	"	"	165,000			"	"
2/11d	"	"	"			"	"

1969. Royal Naval Crests. Harrison. Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways.

Sheets in multiples of 30.

4d	28.8.69.	St Helena	60,000	Asc	60,000	Bureau	30,000
9d	"	"	"		"	"	"
1/9d	"	"	"		"	"	"
2/3d	"	"	"		"	"	"

1970. Deep Sea Fish. De La Rue. Wmk St Edward's Crown CA sideways.

Sheets in multiples of 30.

4d	29.1.70.	Ascension	39,000		Bureau	50,010
9d	"	"	"		"	"
1/9d	"	"	"		"	"
2/3d	"	"	"		"	"

1970 Royal Naval Crests (2nd Series). Wmk St Edward's Crown CA.

Marked 1970.

4d	Ascension	42,000	St Helena	21,000	Bureau	55,000
9d	"	"	"	"	"	"
1/6	"	"	"	"	"	"
2/6	"	"	"	"	"	"

---

Stocks of stamps held for dealers

The Requisition Books show the numbers of stamps put aside for dealers out of the totals despatched from the printer. For Ascension these totals begin in 1934 and continue until the setting up of the wartime Bureau. The Bureau held stamps in case stamps were destroyed by enemy action and it was possible that purchases were made from it. The following figures are of stamps not sheets.

1934 Definitives

½d 30,000, 1d 18,000, 1½d 15,000, 2d 12,000, 3d 10,200  
5d 9,600, 8d 8,400, 1/- 7,200, 2/6d 4,800, 5/- 3,600

also in 1936 to Dealers F B Smith & C Davies 3d 1,120 8d 660, 1/- 420

1935 Silver Jubilee

1½d 21,000, 2d 18,000, 5d 11,400, 1/- 10,200

1937 Coronation

1d 220,000, 2d 198,000, 3d 180,000

the undated entry 1d 265,200, 2d 126,780, 3d 111,480 is marked dealers

1938 Definitives

1½d 60,000, 1d 60,000, 1½d 60,000, 2d 42,000, 3d 36,000  
6d 30,000, 1/- 27,000, 2/6d 18,000, 5/- 12,080, 10/- 4,800

also in 1940 1d 40,000, 3d 20,000, 4d 20,000

Stamp Booklets

Booklets were supplied with the 1963 Definitives. The numbers were -

Total 2500 To Bureau 1500 To St Helena 500 To Ascension 500