

CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

<p><i>The Colonial Postmaster Sierra Leone</i></p>	<p><i>1.6 93</i></p>				
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STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

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Niger Coast: 1893 (Sept.) 1/2d. on 1d. Lilac,
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Front Cover Illustration

This issue's front cover is taken from the Impression Books held in the Post Office Records. Philip Beale and Jeremy Martin published a small booklet on behalf of the WASC in 1981 providing illustrations of all West African postmarks in the 97 volumes held by the Post Office.

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Editorial

At the London meeting of the West Africa Study Circle in March 1996, I was delighted to accept the committee's appointment to the role of Honorary Editor of *Cameo*. I consider it an honour to follow in the footsteps of the only two previous incumbents, Jeremy Martin (editor 1975 to 1990) and Robert Nelson (1991 to 1996). In particular I would like to thank Robert for his sterling efforts over the last few years, and especially for the smooth hand over.

Readers will already have noticed a few changes. Firstly, the front cover has moved away from the cameo design reflecting the initial Gambian stamps. This was a difficult decision to make but, after a discussion (and vote!) at the Circle's meeting referred to above, it was agreed to accept a black and white design on cost grounds; it was also generally felt that the cameo design did not sit well on the A4 size paper. It is my intention to change the illustration on the front cover each issue, so any ideas would be welcomed.

A second change is that the magazine is now printed and circulated from the United Kingdom. The costs have been closely monitored over the last few issues, and it is believed that substantial financial savings can be achieved. Additionally, there should be a degree of time saving over the Maltese process.

An International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is now printed on the mast head page. ISSNs are allocated free of charge on request by the British Library to the publisher of any periodical. Each number is unique to the journal as a whole, rather than one issue. Like International Standard Book Numbers, ISSNs are not connected with the creation of copyright, nor is the legal deposit situation affected. Any publication in this country is required by law to be lodged with the British Library irrespective of whether or not it has an ISSN or ISBN. These numbers are universally used by book shops and libraries.

One or two technical innovations have been introduced, with more automated techniques being used in the production. Please read the article "How to Submit an Article to *Cameo*" towards the end of this issue for information relating how contributors can be most helpful in the future.

The success or failure of any journal is the quality of the articles submitted. In order to sustain the high standards of the previous 21 years it is essential for all members to continue supporting **their** journal. I look forward to your support.



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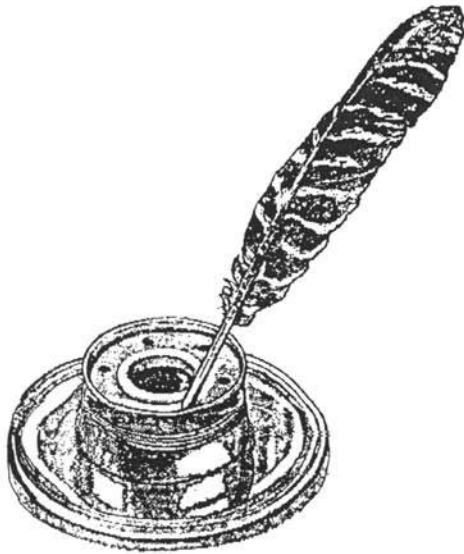


Scope : The West Africa Study Circle covers The Gambia, Gold Coast, The Nigerias, Sierra Leone, Ascension, Cameroons, St. Helena, Togo and nearby British Postal Agencies.

Annual Subscription : £12 for UK members, and £14 for overseas members. There is an entry fee of £5 for new members. The subscription term is for calendar years.

Advertising Rates : Full page £35; half page £20. Members small advertisements 50p per square inch, plus a fee of 1% in the event of a sale; minimum fee £1.

Letters to the Editor



When sifting through the material to hand when I first took over the editor's role, I noticed that there were several pieces of correspondence that would not really make an article in their own right. Accordingly this new section has appeared. Please feel free to write on any philatelic subject relating to West Africa, whether you are providing or seeking information, or merely passing on comments; it would be useful to receive some feedback on the new look *Cameo*.

Should anyone wish to reply to any of these letters, please do so through the *Cameo* editor in the first instance to enable a consolidated follow-up to be published in conjunction with the study editors as appropriate.

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement

Dear Frank,

With the change of editorship of the main *Cameo*, it is perhaps worthwhile reminding the membership that the countries of St. Helena and Ascension enjoy their own separate journal which is available to all members of the West Africa Study Circle free of charge upon request. Members who wish to receive the supplement should write to me to ensure that they are added to my mailing list.

Should anyone have articles for publication relating to either of these islands, I would be delighted to receive them.

Bernard Mabbett
34 Veronica Green
GORLESTON
NR31 8LE



Spitfire Fund Labels

Dear Sir,

Clive Edwards' book *Patriotic & Propaganda of the British Commonwealth* lists the fairly well known Gold Coast Spitfire label as being 37 x 26 mm, and as being recorded in green, red, purple and blue.

Recent enquiries by members of the World War II Study Group of the Cinderella Stamp Club

suggest that the Gold Coast labels measure 46.5 x 34 mm and further that brown and yellow versions are also known.

Until more information can be provided there is at least a suspicion that some of these labels are not genuine and information is sought which can throw any light on these labels.

Specifically, details are sought including:

- ◆ size in mm
- ◆ colour of printing
- ◆ colour of background
- ◆ presence of 'netted' background
- ◆ dates of usage if known.

Edwards lists the only date of use as 13 May 1943, but the earliest date currently recorded is 12 August 1941.

Details in the book are also given of a much scarcer Gambia label, but no illustration is provided. Similar information as listed above is also sought for Gambian material.

Chris Miller
Reading

Editor's note:

This letter was passed to the Gambia Study Editor, Oliver Andrew, who has some information on this subject, but who suggested that an appeal for further details would be appropriate.



☰ Forces Airmail 2½d Rate - Sierra Leone

Dear Frank,

Further to the article in *Cameo* (Vol 4 Page 119)
I can add another cover, dated 2 July 1954.

John Hossack
Leighton Buzzard

Editor's note:

This Forces Concessionary Airmail rate is proving to be an interesting topic. Could anyone who has further examples, particularly of other countries, please send me details to enable a summarizing article to be published.

◇ ◇ ◇

☰ St. Helena Cork Cancellations

Dear Frank,

I am preparing a new listing of these fascinating cancels as part of a new book on the postal history of St. Helena. The Hibbert categories are now somewhat dated, and I would be delighted to hear from any members who have any new information to ensure that the proposed new list is as complete as possible.

Bernard Mabbett
Gorleston

☰ Forces Airmail 2½d Rate - Nigeria

Dear Frank,

I displayed four Nigerian Forces Air Mail covers at the WASC meeting in London in March 1996. They date from 22 June 1950, somewhat earlier than your Sierra Leone examples.

Neville Jones
London

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Auction Reports

The Athenian Gambia at Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Derby, 26 April 1996

This collection was well publicised and eagerly anticipated as the most significant offering of Gambia since the Dale-Lichtenstein sale of October 1990. In generally very fine condition, the 126 lots had been assembled by an overseas collector over a period of some twenty years. Many of the lots had fine pedigrees having graced the Sacher, Glover, Barrington-Jones and Dale-Lichtenstein collections. With some robust estimates based, it appeared, on the lots' previous realisations, there was perhaps a slightly nervous apprehension that some of the star items might under perform. We need not have worried.

At least four WASC members made the journey to Derby, another helped boost BT's profits and several more were no doubt represented on a very strong book. A handful of stampless covers all sold well above estimate with a May 1861 entire letter London with a fine Type 1 strike making £2400 (estimate £1500), a less desirable and slightly later envelope to France with the same marking realising £1500 (£1000) and a December 1869 entire to Bordeaux (endorsed *P. Athenian*) with Type 2 cancellations almost doubling estimate at £1600. The second of these covers sold for £900 in the 1985 Glover sale, and all three were knocked down to an overseas collector against strong opposition from either the book or telephone.

A group of four superb die proofs of the imperf cameos generally sold at or below estimate in the range £1000 to £1700 whilst some bargains were to be had amongst the more run of the mill single adhesives on offer. The well known strip of four of the 1869 blue 6d used on piece matched estimate at £2000 showing a marginal increase on its 1990 price. Two examples of the pale blue shade sold for £300 (£260) and £110 (£150) respectively; the former being particularly attractive and the latter being a very useful copy and a real bargain for the book.

Two imperf 4d covers were the sale's highlights with estimates, considered optimistic by some, of £7500 and £5000. The first to France in 1881 and deservedly gracing the catalogue's front cover came in at £6000 and sold in the room at £8000. The second, to Switzerland in 1880 with noticeable staining but ex Glover when it made £4000, started at that price but eventually sold to the overseas collector for £6500 with the buyer of the previous lot the under bidder.

Perforated cameo lots generally sold in line with estimates although a stunning 1881 registered cover to Germany bearing the first issue 2d and 4d found a new home with a WASC member at £2800 (£1500). A particularly attractive example of the 1s aniline violet sold at the estimate of £500 and even philatelic second issue covers found buyers at healthy prices. Moving to the keyplates, individual duty plate die proofs of the 1898 issue struggled to find buyers at £70/£75 but a pretty cover to Switzerland with a pair of the 2½d cancelled by the RECEIVED/GAMBIA cds of 1899 made £320 (£240). The 1906 1d provisional surcharge double sold on the book for £750 (£800) and a very fine commercial cover with the 1d surcharge used with a 2d definitive proved extremely popular eventually being knocked down to an agent for £700 (£300).

There was little of note amongst the later lots but a small group of material from other vendors brought good prices against generally optimistic estimates. A pair of unique elephant and palms appendix sheets bearing 19 un-denominated colour trials sold in the room at £6500 (£7500) and the same buyer acquired the unique approved essays for the same issue (illustrated in the Circle's handbook) at £2200 apiece (£2500). Two 4d rated covers of 1881 and 1883 to Coalville sold for £800 and £650 (each estimate £500) to the same overseas buyer whose total expenditure for the sale exceeded £40,000 including the 10% buyer's premium which should be added to all realisations in this report.

Mike Roberts

British Africa Philatelic Auctions, Bristol, 3 April & 31 May 1996 (Sales 27 & 28)

- Ascension 1922 Irish ½d and 1d used in Ascension. Each realised £250 (each estimate £250)
1924-33 3s cleft rock in used corner block of 4 realised £375 (£400)
1935 2d Silver Jubilee um block of 4 showing Kite & Horizontal Log varieties realised
£180 (£125); same but 1s realised £275 (£225)
- Cameroon 1915 civilian censored cover to Togo with pair of ½d on 5f. Realised £325 (£375)
1915 5s on 5m used realised £170 (£160)
- Gambia 1926 (3 May) Wireless Station Bathurst cds (later than in the handbook) realised £50 (£60)
- Gold Coast 1889-94 20s green & red SPECIMEN realised £180 (£175)
1876-84 6d perf 14 in block of 10 cancelled by green QUITTAH cds realised £525 (£500)
- Nigeria Sperati forgery of Lagos 1884-86 2s 6d realised £80 (£85)
Niger Coast 1894 (1 June) Code 'A' BUGUMA cancellation on 2½d realised £32 (£30)
1893 ½d on 2½d provisional mint SG Type 4 with surcharge in blue realised £175 (£200)
Nigeria 1921-32 1d rose-carmine in mint vertical gutter pair showing top stamp die I and
bottom stamp die II realised £120 (£95)
- St. Helena 1912 George V Die Proofs of frames (3d and 1s) in black on glazed white card. Each
realised £210 (each £250)
1943 (5 April) commercial cover to England with boxed Crown over PASSED VV /
handstamp and PASSED BY CENSOR label realised £140 (£160)
1913 6d Split 'A' variety used realised £250 (£275); 4d Split 'A' realised £95 (£90)
- Sierra Leone 1912-21 2d greyish slate inverted watermark used realised £55 (£55)
1960 6d registered envelope used to England bearing 4 strikes of SONGO cds Ref 128.04,
listed as 'unrecorded' by Walton. Realised £14 (£15). *[Editor : it is listed now!]*
- Togo 1917 2d + 1d unused creamy white postal stationery envelope (H&G 1b) of Gold Coast
overprinted for Togo Occupation realised £190 (£180)

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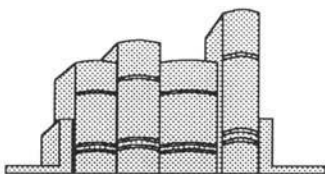
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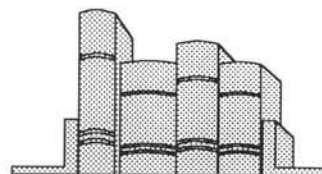
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Bookshelf



Following on from his article in the previous *Cameo*, Philip Beale provides details of new publications from the Public Record Office:

-  *Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office* by Guiseppi has been reissued in hardback as a 1995 edition.
-  Pugh's *The Records of the Colonial and Dominion Offices* is being updated with two volumes by Anne Thurston. The first one, *Sources for Colonial Studies in the Public Record Office, Volume I Records of the Colonial Office, Dominions Office, Commonwealth Relations Office*, has been issued. *Volume II Cabinet, Foreign Office, Treasury and other Records*, will follow. Of course, there is no change to the Classes and details of the records themselves.
-  Richard Rathbone has published the first of two volumes on Ghana which is one of the series *British Documents on the end of Empire*, based on documents in the archives.

Ted Proud has increased the price of books from his long running Postal History series:

-  *The Postal History of Gambia* by E.B. Proud, now priced at £55 plus p&p.
-  *The Postal History of Gold Coast* by E.B. Proud, now priced at £50 plus p&p.
-  *The Postal History of Nigeria* by E.B. Proud, now priced at £70 plus p&p.
See review opposite.
-  *The Postal History of Sierra Leone* by E.B. Proud, now priced at £45 plus p&p.

These four titles are available from Postal History Publications Co., P.O. Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex, United Kingdom TN21 8PZ.

-  *Wartime Air Mail - An Introduction* by John Daynes. Reviewed by Jeremy Martin:

Your reviewer has collected World War II air mail covers for many years, recently giving a display to the WASC of mail 'via West Africa'. A problem has always been trying to work out the exact route taken by the cover.

In his new book John has published information on British services taken from Ministry of Civil Aviation reports for the years 1940 to 1945. Much will be found on West Africa which should help members in working out the route taken. It should be noted that exact dates of flights are not given, just general details of the service, airports used and the commencement and end dates of the service. Recommended.

The book has 177 A4 pages, plastic comb binding and soft back. Published by Postal History 2000 and available from Peter High, 13 Hillcroome Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5EL, United Kingdom. Price £20 plus £1.45 UK postage.



The Postal History of Nigeria by Edward B. Proud. ISBN 1 872465 17X, 888 pages, hardback. Reviewed by Michael Wright:

For obvious reasons (some 1450 post offices and agencies are recorded) this is the largest of Ted Proud's books relating to West Africa and is a great achievement. It shares the virtues and vices mentioned in the reviews in the January 1996 *Cameo* of the volumes for the other three colonies, which need not be repeated.

It covers the whole of Nigeria from the first mail contract of 1852 up to independence on 1 October 1960 - ie the whole period covered by Ince and Sacher and two-thirds of that covered by Neville Jones; it also covers, together but in a separate section, the three different areas of British-controlled Cameroons (the Duala area, the Northern Cameroons and the Southern Cameroons) until the respective dates of the ending of British control . The first 156 pages comprise three chapters of General History, Postal History and Postal Rates. The Postal History includes a large number of photocopied Timetables of Mail Services, and some interesting photographs; the postal rates include some obvious type-setting errors.

The postmarks are shown in alphabetical order, except that Lagos - and for unclear reasons Victoria (but not Duala) - precede the lists for Nigeria and Cameroons. A separate chapter deals with Travelling and Mobile Post Offices. Under each office or agency, machine, parcel and registration cancellations etc. are shown in separate groupings, but skeleton postmarks, fixed single circle and fixed double circle datestamps are all together (even when inscribed Telegraphs or Savings Bank). Probably for the first time, along with the dated registered postmarks, all handstamps used in lieu of registration labels are also shown, although not any different ones if seen only used on blank labels to denote the office.

Perhaps the greatest virtue of the book is the illustration of all postmarks that the author has seen, including varying skeletons; it should be noted, however, that where dates have been reported by collaborators and not seen by the author - which is indicated - the illustration may not in fact be of the pattern used at that date. Often the numbers applied to the postmarks begin with 2, presumably to allow for any subsequent discovery of an earlier postmark.

An attempt at retail pricing is given; this is usually in the form of a one basic price per office (if long-standing, different prices for different time periods) with occasionally some individual postmarks mentioned as a multiple of that price. The usual price for a cover with a clear postmark from a small agency opened in the 1950s is £10, with £1 for an example on a stamp or piece.

As in the other volumes the general index is negligible, but Frank Walton has contributed invaluable normal and "right-justified" indexes, the latter enabling one with ease to attribute a mark to an office even if the first letter(s) are missing or unclear.

The price of £70 now quoted is the new one up from £50 when the book was first published.



WASC Library List

Dudley Ingoldby-Williams & Frank Walton

Unfortunately gremlins got into the Library List dated September 1995 in that the last few items in the Nigerias section were erroneously numbered 732 to 736. These should have been 778 to 782. Apologies for any confusion that this may have caused.

GOLD COAST 1928. KGV Castle issue 3d imperforate plate proof block of 10 in dull brown with margins at right & bottom on ungummed unwatermarked paper. Endorsed "1st Cyl. etched, March 16th 1928" in lower margin. £450.

SIERRA LEONE 1890. Cover to Surrey franked by strip of 4 1884-93 Queen Victoria 2d grey, tied by "B31" cancellations, with superb strike of "LATE FEE" handstamp. Freetown, Liverpool & Richmond datestamps. An early Late Fee item with an uncommon type of cachet. £300.

SIERRA LEONE 1959. Cover from Uruguay to Cape Town, handstamped "MISSENT TO SIERRA LEONE". £85.

TOGO/GERMANY 1895. Usage of a German 1891 5pf postal stationery postcard (P30) to Germany with additional 1889 5pf, both tied by Lome c.d.s. (16 May) with Oppeln arrival c.d.s. below & blue handstruck "R" at top. A most unusual early registered postcard. £125.

TOGO 1914. 30 pfg, (tiny perf stains), overprinted "Togo Occupation franco-anglaise" at Porto Novo, tied to small piece by Atakapame c.d.s. (October 1914). £65.

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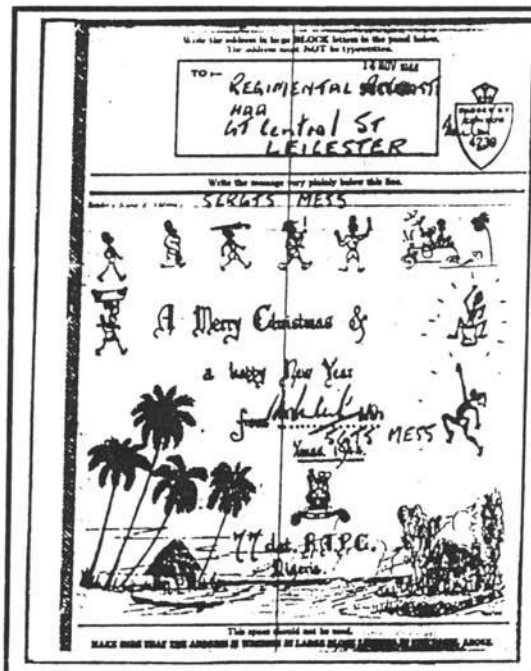


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Stamps Issued During 1994

Frank Walton

The annual statistics relating to the new issues for each country in the world have been published by the compilers, Michel Rundschau (Ref. 1). Extracts are reproduced with permission.

In the calendar year of 1994, a total of 10,428 stamps and 983 miniature sheets were produced. This does not include imperforate varieties of which there were an additional 314 stamps and 138 sheets.

The breakdown for countries covered by the West Africa Study Circle is given below, along with Guyana (the largest issuer in 1994), the United Kingdom and the United States of America for comparison. Ghana and Gambia were the 10th and 11th most prolific out of the 246 countries which issued stamps.

Country	Total Issued	Perf Stamps	Perf Sheets	Imperf Stamps	Imperf Sheets	Local Face Value	Sterling (Ref. 2)
Ghana	188	162	0	26	0	85150	£35.70
Gambia	181	157	0	24	0	1254.75	£83.10
Sierra Leone	86	73	0	13	0	37050	£27.55
Ascension	29	27	0	2	0	10.96	£10.96
St Helena	28	28	0	0	0	8.94	£8.94
Togo	27	12	6	6	3	5570	£7.22
Nigeria	17	17	0	0	0	125.50	£1.00
Cameroon	4	4	0	0	0	4.90	£10.40
Guyana	530	441	0	59	30	52150.90	£248.43
USA	127	117	6	4	0	101.58	£66.00
UK (no regionals)	69	69	0	0	0	33.56	£33.56

References

1. Michel Rundschau, *Jahresinventur 1994*, Munich 1995
2. Using market notional rates as at 11 April 1996



Parcel Post to Nigeria 1898

Jeremy Martin

By courtesy of Post Office Archives, the following extract from Reference 1227, File Number 118/1914 can be reproduced:

“On and after 1st of December parcels may be sent by Parcel Post to places in the territories of the Royal Niger Company under the conditions applicable to parcels for the Niger Coast Protectorate. The conveyance of the parcels beyond the port at which they are landed - Akassa or Burutu, as the case may be - will be at the risk of the addressees.”

Mail from Gold Coast Troops Abroad

Michael Ensor

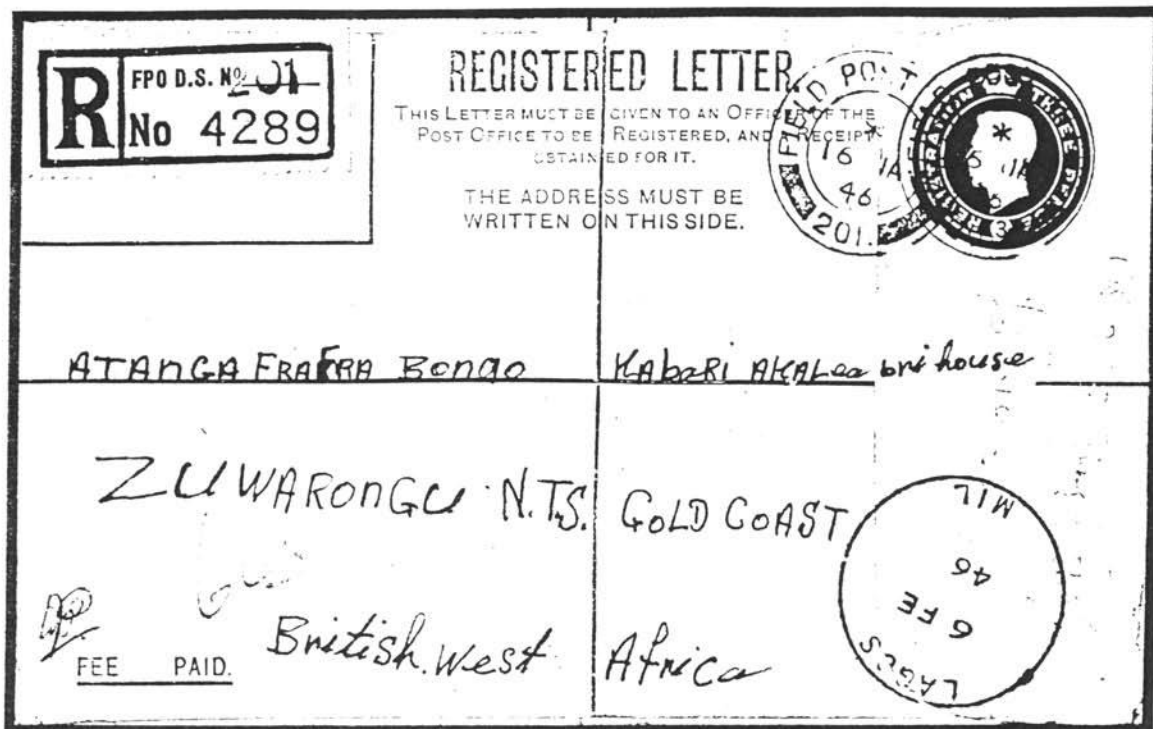


Figure 1 : Cover from FPO 201 to Zuwarongu, Gold Coast on 16 January 1946

Mail from Gold Coast soldiers serving in the Forces abroad forms an interesting element of the postal history of the colony. However I have not come upon any from the main theatres in which the Gold Coast Regiment fought in World War II - East Africa and Burma, nor yet from the Gambia where a battalion was stationed.

Strangely, four covers sent by Gold Coast soldiers abroad have turned up which were sent from Egypt, an area in which the standard military histories make no mention of Gold Coast units serving. When the Resident Minister, West Africa, visited West African Forces in the Middle East in May 1945 he was taken to see Nigerians (originally Pioneers but being converted to guard duties), but no mention was made of any Gold Coast soldiers.

These covers were all posted after fighting had receded from the Middle East, in three cases after the end of the war. But it is nevertheless a puzzle how the senders of this mail came to be in Egypt.

The first cover is backstamped Base Army Post Office B 29 December 1944. It cannot be proved to have been sent by a Gold Coaster but this seems highly likely. The second and third are undoubtedly from Gold Coast infantrymen, Talensi by tribe, but given the name Frafra (a tribal greeting) by recruiters unable to discover among members of this tribe anything like a European surname. They inhabit an area south east of Bolgatanga. It was only when item three (Fig. 1) turned up that a unit was revealed. The writer states his unit to be No. 13 (WA) Independent Infantry Garrison Company (ME). All that the Imperial War Museum could provide was a list showing that at some times after the outbreak of World War II seven Infantry Garrison Companies (Nos. 12 to 18) had been constituted by Gold Coast troops. Their locations were not given. But Proud's *History of the British Army Postal Service*, Volume III, shows all the four datestamps on these covers to have been held in Egypt at the time of use - by Base Army Post Office 4, and Field Post Offices 235, 201 and 174 respectively.

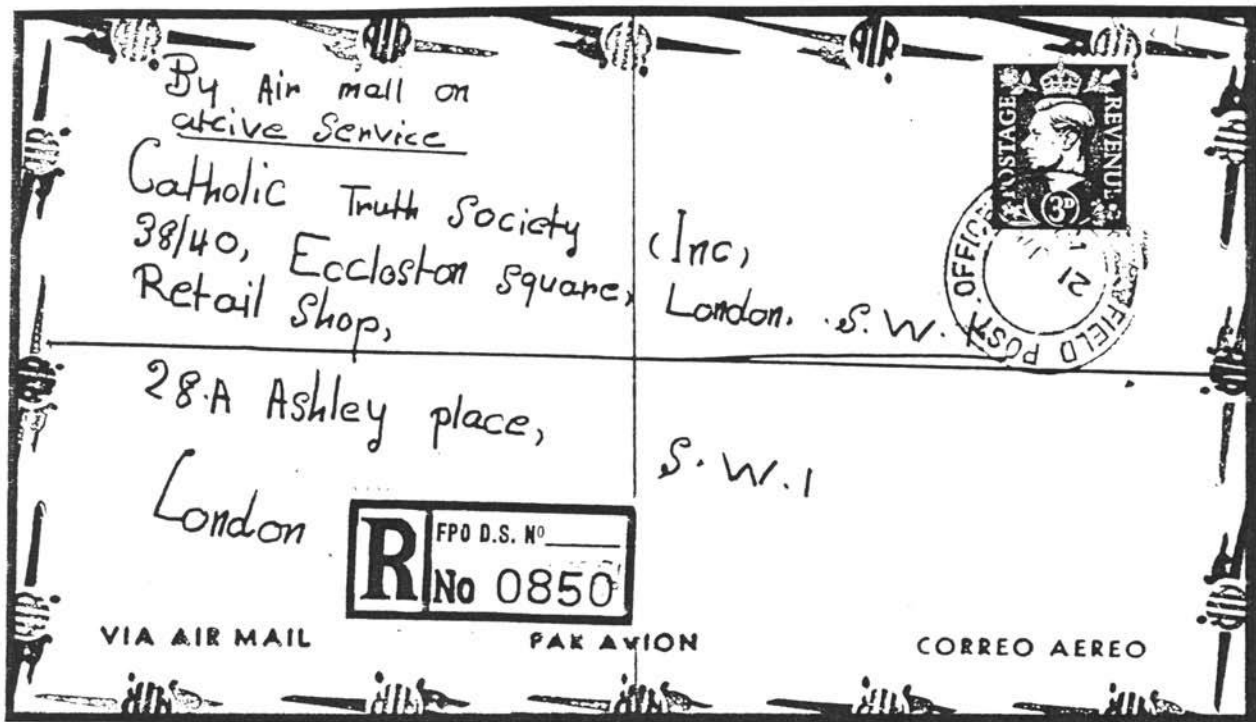


Figure 2 : Cover from FPO 174 to London, England on 21 January 1947

Probably illiterate when they left the Gold Coast, these Frafras doubtless had more time when on garrison duties to attend the Army's education classes than would have been possible when in fighting units.

Covers 2 and 3 seem to have been carried by military means as far as Lagos and to have been passed to civil postal services there.

The fourth cover (Fig. 2) cannot be attributed to a Gold Coaster with certainty, but the writer gives his return address on the reverse as Asamangese. It has a FPO 174 cancellation, which was probably at Tel el Kebir in 1947.

Any information about these units that readers may have will be appreciated.



Mails for the West Coast of Africa 1898

Jeremy Martin

By courtesy of P. O. Archives, the following extract from File Number 118/1914 can be reproduced:

"The Mail Packets leaving Liverpool for the West and South West Coasts of Africa on the under mentioned days in December 1898 will carry Mails for the places specified:-

Saturday 3 December - Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Cape Coast Castle, Adjuah, Appam, Axim, Chama, Dixcove, Elmina, Saltpond, Sekundi, The Mines, Winnebah, Accra, Pram Pram, Addah, Quittah, Lagos, Porto Novo, Forcados, Burutu, Bonny, Old Calabar, Opobo, Benin, Sapelli, Warree, New Calabar, Bakana, Brass, Abonema, Buguma, Slave Trees and Degema.

In London the correspondence should be posted on the previous day in each case. The Packets in question carry Parcel Mails for Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Axim, Cape Coast Castle, Saltpond, Winnebah, Accra, Addah, Quittah, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Brass, New Calabar, Old Calabar, Opobo and Warree.

The Parcel Mails are made up at Liverpool on the afternoon of the day before the departure of each Packet."

Gold Coast Postal, Telephone & Telegraph Services

Jeremy Martin

These extracts are taken from *The Gold Coast, A Statistical Survey*, published in 1937.

The staff of every Gold Coast post office is exclusively African - from the telegraph messenger to the postmaster, and the labourers who carry poles and wire to the telegraph inspector who repairs the lines. The European members of the Posts and Telegraph Department are engaged on administration and supervision work.

There are seventy-four head post offices in the Gold Coast. All except one are in communication with each other by telegraph and telephone. According to the volume of business they transact, they vary in importance from those which employ one clerk and a telegraph messenger, to the General Post Office in Accra with a staff of over 150 men and women. In addition to the head post offices, there are 207 postal agencies (or sub-post offices) the majority of which are staffed by young men sponsored by local chiefs and paid on a commission basis. As many as 101 of these agencies are connected to the telegraph or telephone system, and in numerous cases they are responsible for as much business as that of a small head post office.

The telephone system of the Gold Coast is exceptionally good in comparison with that of Colonies at a similar stage of development. Trunk calls can be made to almost every part of the Colony, for there are eighty-five telephone exchanges and, in addition fifty-one public call offices. The exchanges range in size from those run by the single-handed postal agent to the exchange at Accra, where twenty-three operators (mostly young women) are employed. Attendance ranges from seven hours at the smallest exchange



Figure 1 : A contract lorry arrives with mails at an up-country Post Office

to continuous night-and-day service at the five largest.

There is a Government wireless station at Takoradi which is staffed entirely by Africans and maintains a continuous radio-telegraph service with ships at sea. A direction-finding wireless station has recently been erected at Accra; but, for the present, its activities are confined to assisting aircraft.

Air mails are received and despatched from Accra four times a week, and the principal overseas mails carried by ships are received and despatched approximately once a week.

The inland mail services range from the once-weekly service in outlying parts (where the mail bag is head-loaded or carried by bicycle for considerable distances) to the daily services given by red mail vans of the type familiar in the United Kingdom. There are, also, daily services between the towns and villages on the railways, travelling post offices being common.

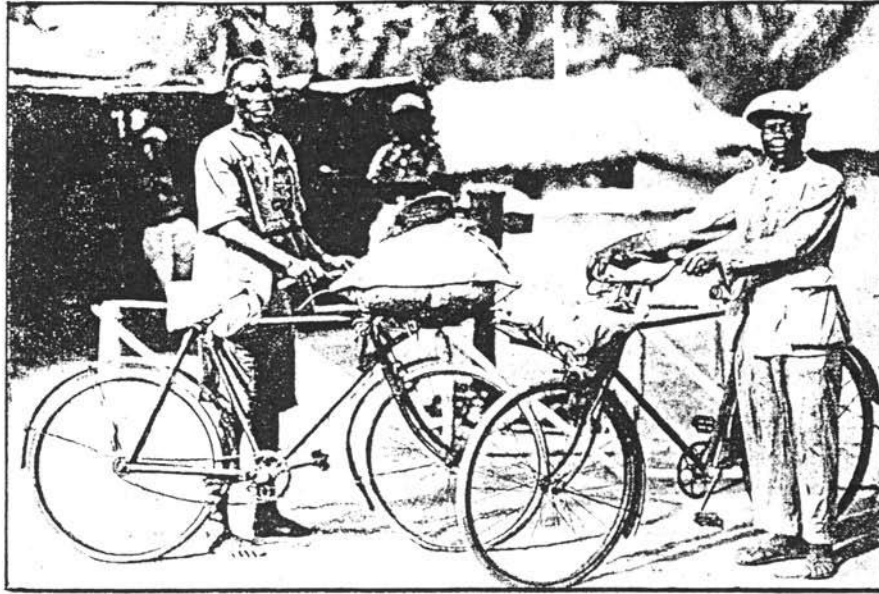


Figure 2 : L'entente cordiale.
British and French mail-carriers exchange mail on the Gold Coast - Togoland frontier.

Broadcasting Service: A Government rediffusion or wire-broadcasting service was inaugurated in Accra in 1935. Similar services have now been established in many of the principal towns. Reception of the B.B.C. Empire programmes is

generally very good, and the popularity of broadcasting is illustrated by the fact that there are nearly 1,200 subscribers to the rediffusion service in Accra alone. Loud speakers have been installed in many schools.

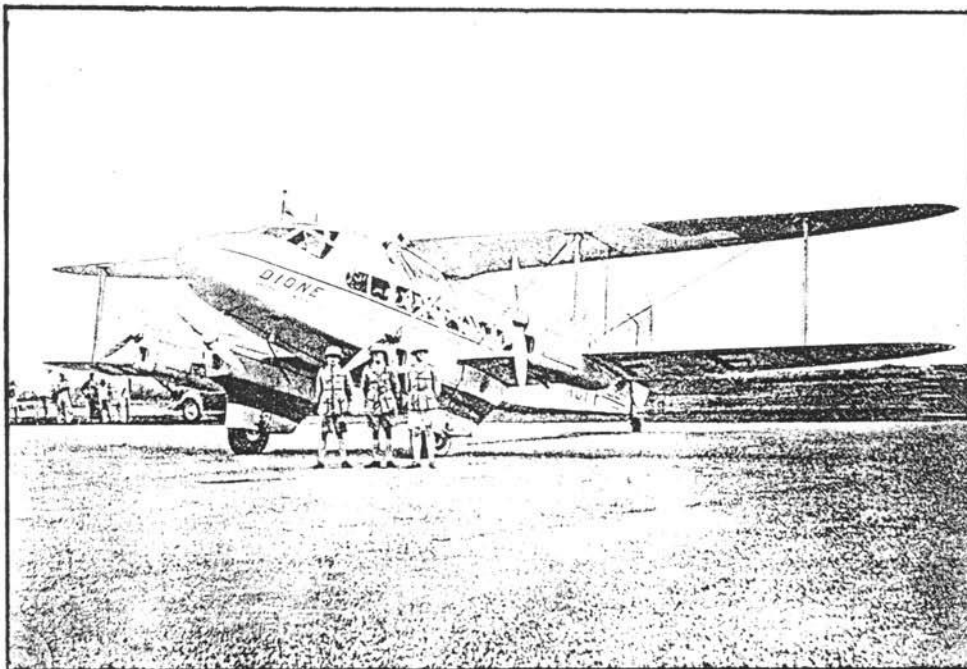


Figure 3 : The first Imperial Airways 'plane at Accra airport, August 1937

The *Star Leader* Jamaica Covers

Barbara Priddy

On 7 September 1946 BSAA's Avro York G-AHEW *Star Leader* crashed shortly after take-off from Yundum airport, killing its 20 passengers and 4 crew and destroying a large amount of mail. The *Star Leader* was on a scheduled weekly flight from London via Bathurst to Natal, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Santiago, a service inaugurated on 27 June 1946.

from contemporary reports of the accident that the aeroplane came down in the bush about two miles south of Yundum. Mail may have been in a section of the aircraft that was thrown clear of the fire into a wet place; no other likely crash or wreck is reported at this time. The only covers which appear to be known to philately are those addressed to Mr Gunter, but, as no cachet was

Two covers addressed to Jamaica and said to come from this crash have been previously published in *Cameo* (Ref. 1). Shown here are Charles Leonard's cover (Fig. 1) and a fourth cover recently offered for sale by M. D. Piggin (Fig. 2). A fifth cover, described as having one stamp missing, together with a covering letter, was sold in Cavendish's auction (29 September 1995) of Robert Swarbrick's Jamaican collection, and a sixth is in the possession of Howard Longden of the BAeF. They are obviously aerophilatelic (the addressee, Mr Gunter, is well known in Jamaican philately) and the sender's endorsement *London - Jamaica / Special Direct Flight* seems to call for an explanation. Were they really on the *Star Leader* and, if so, why?



Figure 1 (reduced) : A pencilled note in Gunter's handwriting on the reverse reads 'This was received in this condition. It was evidently soaked in water and enquiry at your end may reveal the reason. G.C.'

The dates are in their favour: posted in London on 4 September - the *Star Leader* left London on 6 September - and received in Jamaica on 16 September, with an authentic backstamp of Half Way Tree. So is the Post Office announcement that the *Star Leader* was carrying mail for South and Central America and the West Indies. Although the announcement also says that correspondence posted on 4 September was destroyed (by implication all of it, as contrasted with 'part of' that posted on 3 and 5 September), it was later announced that all mail for Jamaica had been salvaged and forwarded. Finally, they are in appearance crash covers, although they look more as if they have been in water, as the stamps are floated off, rather than in a fire, as there is no charring. The crash report states that 'a fire of considerable intensity occurred'; there is no doubt

applied to recovered mail, covers to other destinations may lurk unrecognised in collections or dealers' stock.

Assuming that these covers were on this flight, why were they so routed? The normal routing at this period for covers from UK to Jamaica would have been by BOAC to New York (a service resumed on 2 September after its Constellations had been grounded in July, consequent upon an American airline's Constellation crashing) and thence by PAA to Miami and Kingston. However, also on 2 September, BSAA commenced a twice monthly service to Central America, when *Star Guide* with Captain Gordon Store at the controls left London. Calls were made at Azores, Bermuda and Jamaica, and the service terminated at Caracas in Venezuela (Ref. 2). There can be no doubt that

this was the flight that the sender was aiming at. Why did he miss it? A contemporary explains:

'As a result of an urgent request to the Post Office Department by the American Air Mail Society, the Department has promised to restore to collectors first flight cover facilities and notices of first flights will appear in the Postal Bulletin as far in advance as possible. The editor of *The Aero Field* laments the fact that collectors in Great Britain cannot expect similar sympathetic treatment. Far from encouraging them in their foolishness, "frustration" is the watchword of officialdom. When new services can be announced just too late for collectors to despatch souvenir covers by the first flights, ambition is achieved!' (Ref. 3).

Jamaica, however, was more sympathetic, and the return flight on 5 September was announced in good time and covers were cacheted (Fig. 3).

Other members may like to go into the question of the peculiar double frankings and postmarks, which may have a bearing on the problem. It seems probable that the GPO (London FS) took the endorsement to mean the covers should be handed



Figure 3 (reduced) : First flight cachet

to BSAA, and that BSAA put them on its next transatlantic service, which was not a direct Central Atlantic flight but a South Atlantic flight via Bathurst. If all had gone as planned, they would have been off-loaded at Natal on 7 September for transmission north, probably by PAA, and arrived in Jamaica 9 September: the BWIA service from Trinidad to Jamaica could also have played a part. As it was, they would appear to have been forwarded from Bathurst by the next BSAA flight to Natal on 14 September, and thence northwards on 15-16 September.

I should like to thank Charles Leonard for prompting me to look into this matter, about which we had both been wondering for some years; and Paul Wright for Jamaican information.

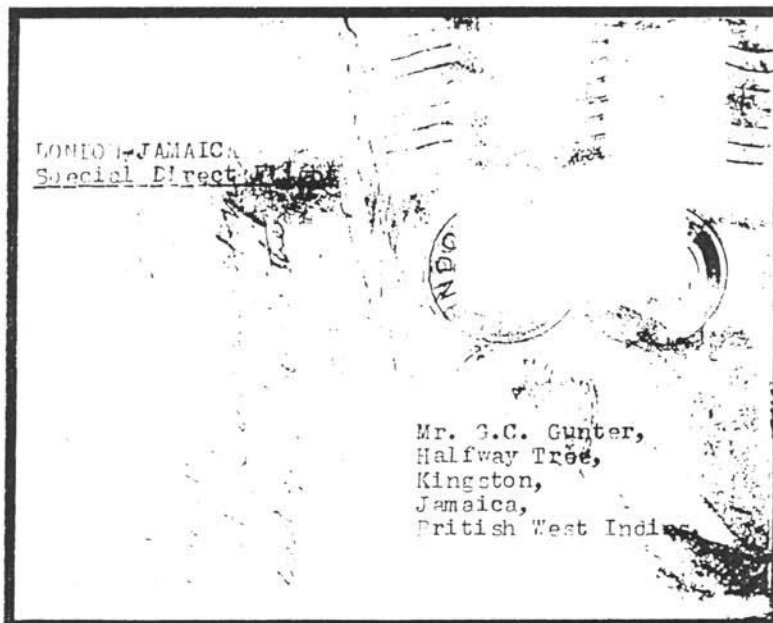


Figure 2 (reduced) : A note on the reverse reads 'Salved from BSAA *Star Leader* which crashed off Gambia on Sept. 7th'. This is said by Nierinck (Ref. 4) to have been applied at the time as an official explanation in lieu of a cachet; in view of the mistaken 'off Gambia' this is unlikely.

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1. Martin J.J., "Gambia: The 'Star Leader' Crash", *Cameo* Volume 2 p68, WASC, January 1981 and Maddocks R.J., "Areoplane Crashes in Gambia 'Star Leader' and Others", *Cameo* Volume 4 pp161-3, WASC, January 1993.
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Twice Across the Atlantic to the UK

Richard Beith

Reproduced from February 1996 British Philatelic Bulletin - the Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors.

By 1941, the extreme shortage of "civilian" planes meant that the British Post Office was unable to offer a civilian air mail service to West Africa. Even priority military and diplomatic mail faced a great lack of capacity. Mail for South Africa, North Africa, the Middle East and Australasia was mainly carried by sea to Durban and then transferred to the famous "Horseshoe" air mail service operated by BOAC and its associates (Ref 1). Of course, prior to entry of the Japanese into the war, mail could be sent to the Far East across the North Atlantic and then on Pan American's Trans-Pacific service, but the postal charges were high and there was still a capacity problem on the North Atlantic.

In December 1941 Pan American initiated a new air mail service from Miami to the Belgian Congo as part of providing assistance to the Allied war effort in Africa and beyond. One of the presumably unplanned spin offs from the operation of this route, was the decision of various postal authorities, colonial and others, to utilise the return flights *from* West Africa to Florida as a way of helping air mails on their way to the UK. Of course, the mail still had to get back to the UK via New York and the North Atlantic air route. The writer has strong suspicions that some (much?) of this mail, often franked at very high postal rates, was still held up in New York waiting for passage to GB and may sometimes have crossed the North Atlantic by sea rather than by air.

The object of this article is to give the background to this American route and to describe a number of covers which have all the appearances of having completed two crossings of the Atlantic prior to reaching the UK.

The Lack of British Air Mail Capacity

There never had been a direct British air mail route to British West Africa prior to the Second World War. Air mails were carried on the regular South African services of Imperial Airways via the Mediterranean and down the Nile to Khartoum.

From Khartoum a branch line operated to Kano and Lagos in Nigeria where connections were made by Elder Colonial Airways to the Gold Coast. (If war hadn't broken out, British Airways Limited would eventually have opened a UK-South America service via Bathurst, Gambia, Refs 2 & 3).

The fall of France and the cutting of the Mediterranean with the entry of Italy into the war in Summer 1940 had an obvious effect on the peace time routes - the main result was the routing of mail by sea to Durban for onward transmission by air, as noted above. A brief survey of the civil aviation history of this area, soon reveals that there was a constant battle to provide enough carrying capacity for urgent military mails, diplomatic despatches and priority passengers without even considering the possibility of carrying ordinary civilian mails. Between October 1940 and late 1941 priority traffic was maintained with a mere handful of flying boats. The Empire boats *Clyde* and *Clare* operated a Poole (Dorset)-Lisbon-Bathurst-Freetown-Lagos service at approximately 10 day intervals, but the frequency was cut after *Clyde* sank at her Lisbon moorings. Various other stop-gap planes were used, but as noted by the anonymous author of *Merchant Airmen: Still the load that could be carried was insufficient for the urgency of communication*. By February 1942 "C" class Empire flying boats from the Mediterranean were transferred to the West African route and in July 1942 the "G" class flying boats *Golden Hind* and *Golden Horn* began a service for priority passengers and diplomatic mail from Poole to Foynes (Eire) and thence Lisbon, Bathurst, Freetown, Accra and Lagos. It was as late as April 1944 before BOAC were able to introduce a UK-Lagos service using DC3s (Refs 4-6).

Reference to the British *Post Office Circulars* of the period shows that a civil air mail service was still available from the UK to British West Africa in October 1939, but that Nigeria, Gold Coast, etc, had already been omitted from the list of air mail destinations by August 1940. As late as August

1944 the phrase *No service* was still in use and it was not until July 1945 that a qualified "yes" was given : *By air throughout to the extent that aircraft capacity is available after the military priority requirements have been met.*

Hence, it's not surprising that when the new American route was opened at the end of 1941 colonial postal officials took an interest in the possibility of sending mails to the "Old Country" via the USA.

The new American route - FAM22

While the USA remained neutral, President Roosevelt had to act carefully to avoid upsetting isolationist feelings at home. However, within these constraints, he was concerned to help the

Allies as much as possible and in September 1941 the President asked Pan American Airways to inaugurate an air route to the Congo to facilitate communications with the Belgian, British and Free French authorities in Central Africa. Pan American Airways Africa Ltd, a new company, was set up and two thousand employees were transferred to set up the route and ground facilities. The route ran from Miami via San Juan, Port of Spain (Trinidad), Belem and Natal (Brazil) to Bathurst, Monrovia (Liberia),

Lagos, and Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. This, of course, also provided the ground facilities which enabled war planes to reach the Middle and Far East under their own power.

The mail route is usually known as FAM22, that is, Foreign Air Mail Route No. 22 of the United States Post Office. A full range of first flight covers were flown, the writer has already described these elsewhere in the philatelic press

Ref 7). The first flight, using the Boeing 314A flying boat *Cape Town Clipper*, actually left American territory on 6 December 1941 one day before the attack on Pearl Harbour so the conventions of neutrality only applied for the first day of the new service. Readers interested in the historical and political background to the development of this route are referred to Deborah W Ray's detailed account, (Ref 8). The autobiography of the *Cape Town Clipper's* chief pilot, Captain Masland, also makes good reading, but he had a very low opinion of philatelists owing to the numerous delays encountered while waiting for first flight covers to be serviced at each stop. As the Captain said: *If you have a philatelist for President, you must take the good with the bad* (Ref 9).



Figure 1 : First return flight from Nigeria to Miami

Mail from Africa to the UK

Figure 1 shows a cover from the first return flight carried from Nigeria to Miami by FAM22 and bearing the special handstamp / cachet prepared by the Nigerian Post Office: FIRST AIRMAIL USA-NIGERIA 14 DE 1941. However, the cover is addressed to Ayr in Scotland and bears the manuscript instruction: *Via Pan-American Airways Brazil-Miami-New York-Lisbon and Imperial*



Figure 2 : *Par Clipper* endorsement on cover from Bangui to London

Airways to London. Apart from the fact that Imperial Airways had long been absorbed into BOAC, the instruction indicates that the sender (whose location is given on the rear of the envelope as *c/o Chief Accountant, Posts and Telegraphs, Lagos*) had a fair idea of the opportunities provided by the new service. Note the very high franking of five shillings. Figure 2

shows a December 1942 cover from Bangui in Oubangi-Chari franked with 24.25 francs worth of Free French stamps addressed to London. The manuscript note *Par Clipper* suggests carriage via Pan American was preferred; this routing is confirmed by the fact that the code number on the American censor tape EXAMINED BY 5519 refers to a censor operating in New York (Ref 10).

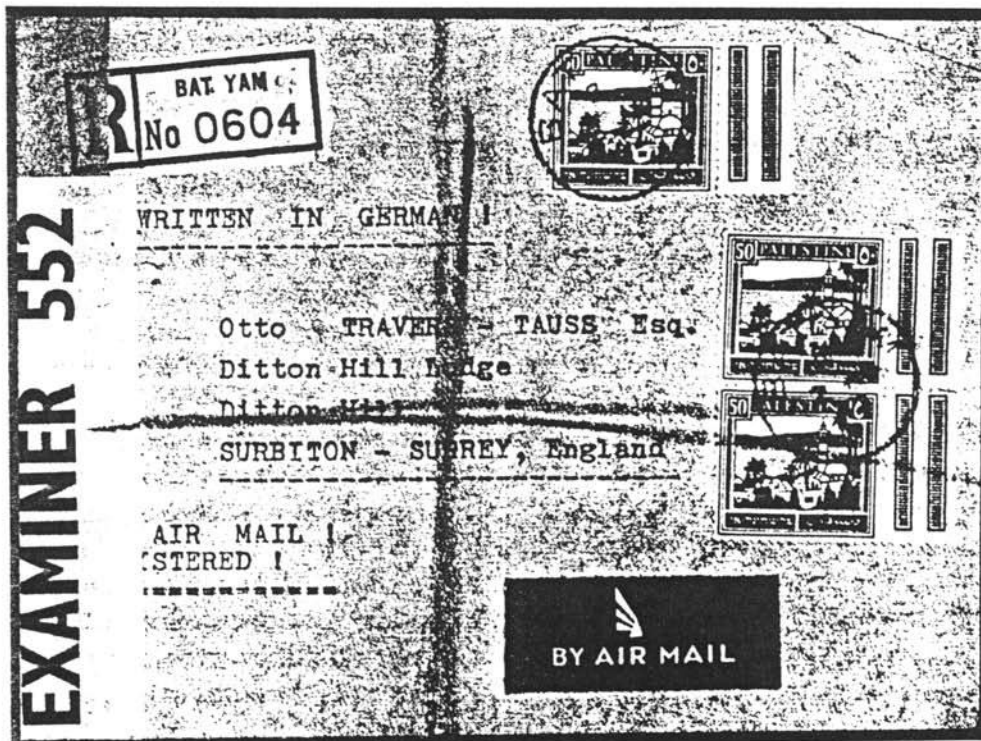


Figure 3 : Registered cover from Palestine to Surbiton

Mail from the Middle and Far East to UK

Figure 3 shows a 2 August 1942 registered cover from Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv, Palestine to Surbiton, Surrey. Registered covers usually tell us more about mail routes, thanks to the practice of backstamping in transit. This cover has received transit marks in Miami (19 August 1942) and New York (20 August 1942) followed by a Surbiton, Surrey cds for 1st September 1942.

Figure 4 shows a cover from Chaoting, China, dated 6 August 1943 to Felixstowe with manuscript endorsement: *By BOAC to Lagos via Calcutta and thence by PAA to destination.* There are no transit marks, to prove this route, but this type of route instruction seems relatively common on air mail from China to the UK at this time.

Postscript

The continuing history of FAM22 during the rest of the Second World War has not been accorded the attention it deserves from aerophilatelists. This present study is but one aspect of a larger story. Apparently FAM22 continued to operate until 8 January 1945, but the line between civil and military mail carrying along this route obviously became blurred. The writer will be happy to receive any additional information / photocopies

on any aspect of FAM22 for comment via the Editor.

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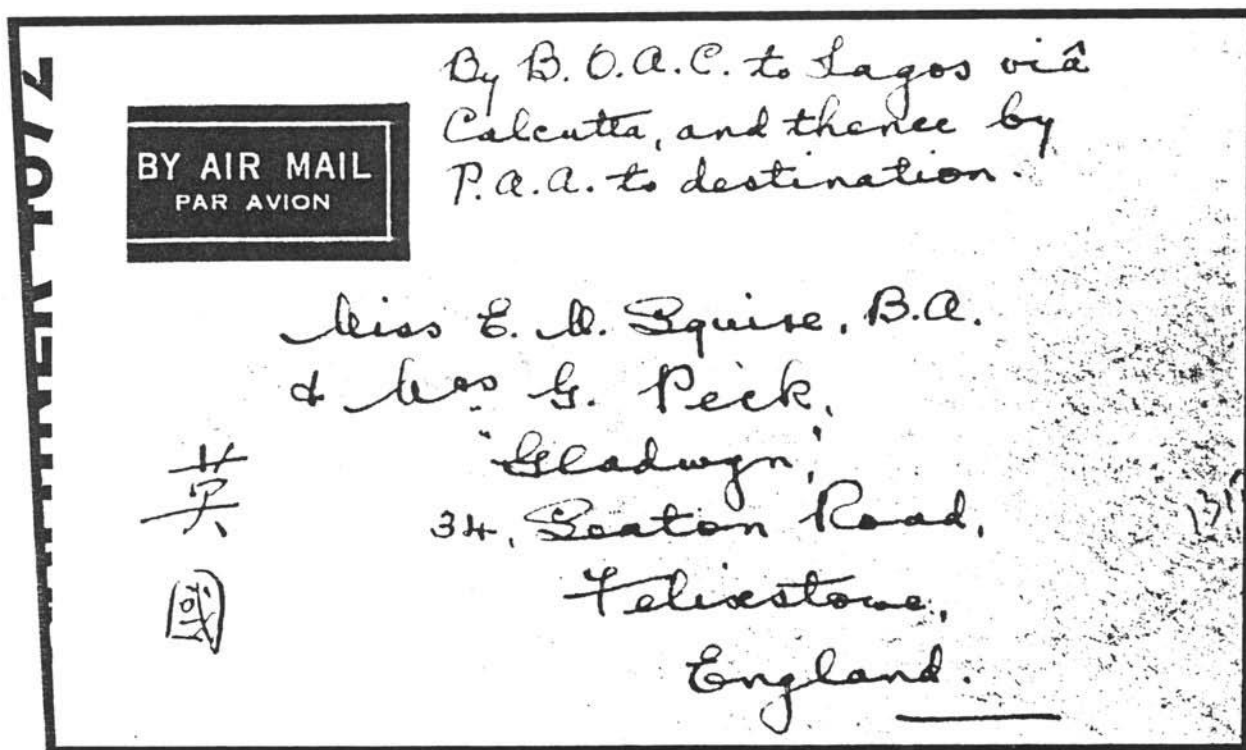


Figure 4 : Cover from Chaoting, China, to Felixstowe carried by both BOAC and PAA

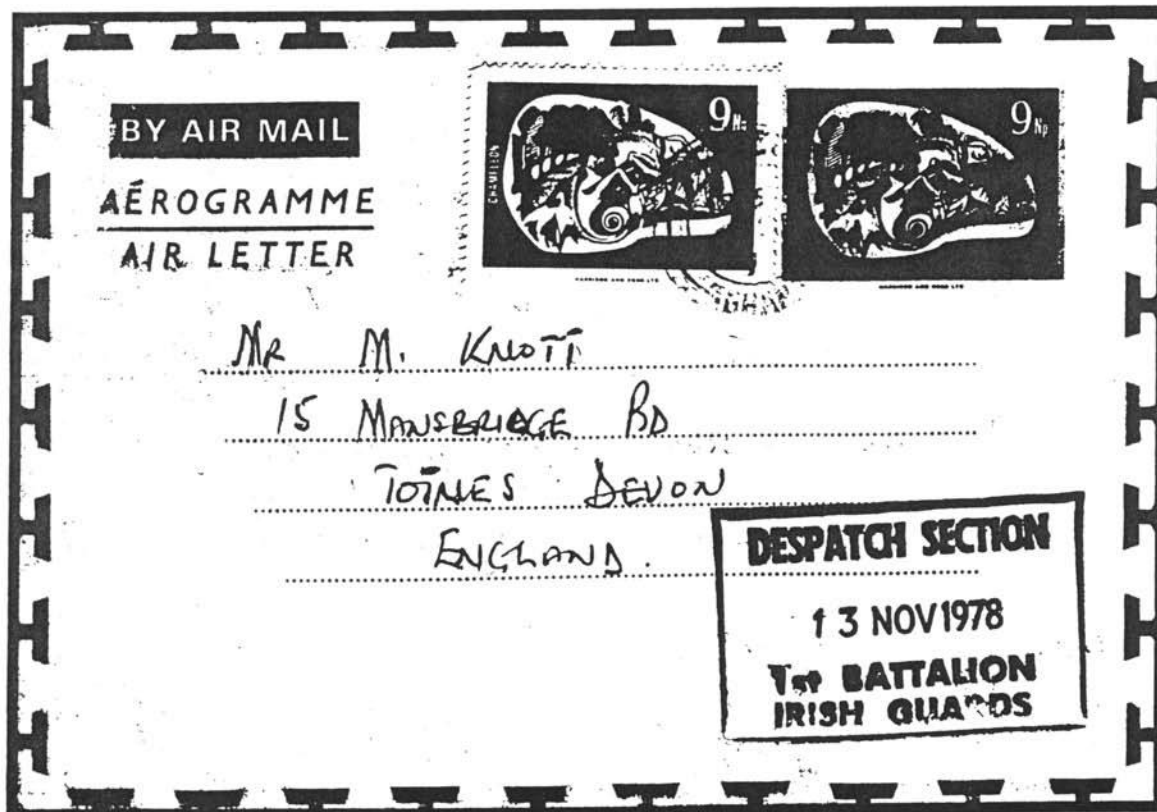
British Forces on Exercise in West Africa 1968-79

Michael Knott (a member of the Forces Postal History Society)

During this period British forces underwent specialized jungle warfare training in either Ghana or The Gambia. They learned the dangers of heat exhaustion as well as precautions against malaria and snake bites. Often these exercises were reciprocated by African forces visiting the United Kingdom.

British Forces Post Offices were established, with FPO postmarks usually being adopted.

Location	Exercise Name	Dates		Unit	BFPO	FPO Pmk Number
Afienva, Ghana	Attract	Aug 1968	16 Oct 1968	1st Battalion Welch Regiment	617	56
Afienva and Konongo, Ghana		21 Jul 1971 28 Jul 1971	28 Jul 1971 31 Aug 1971	{ 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment { and 44 Parachute Brigade	617	574
Tungwars, Gambia	Sun River	17 Jan 1977	24 Apr 1977	1st Battalion Queen's Lancashire Reg.	601	129
Killy Camp, Gambia	Sun River	3 Jan 1978	1 Jun 1978	2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment	601	243
Achiasi, Ghana		Nov 1978	Nov 1978	1st Battalion Irish Guards		
Killy Camp, Gambia	Sun River	10 Jan 1979	4 Apr 1979	2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards	601	141

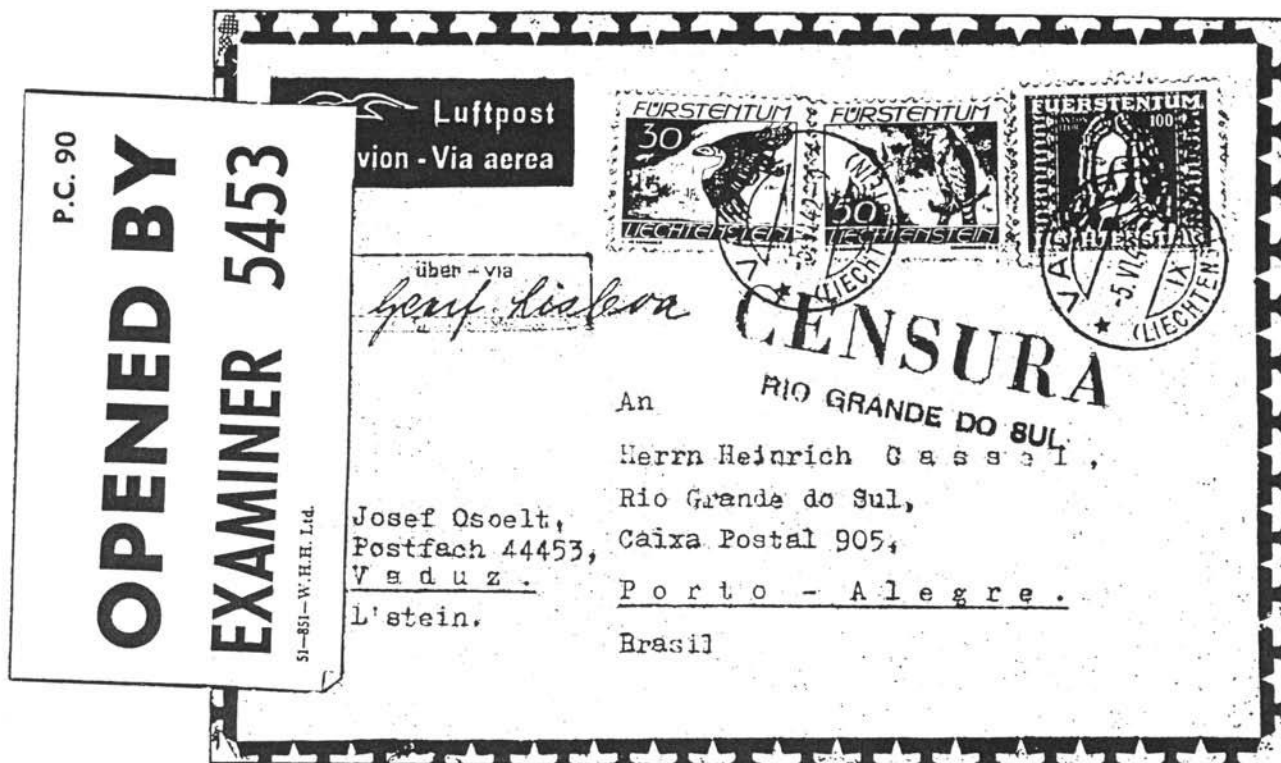


Cover from Irish Guards in Achiasi, Ghana - November 1978

Liechtenstein to Brazil - Censored in Gambia

Frank Walton

A fellow member of the Sheffield Philatelic Society, Neil Ritchie, displayed this cover amongst a selection of censored covers all emanating from Liechtenstein during World War II. The fact that it is censored in Gambia is only discernible from the EXAMINER 5453 label. This cover is an example of the practice of the interception of Portuguese mail at Bathurst outlined by Bob Maddocks in his recent *Cameo* article (Ref. 1).



5 June 1942 - Cover from Vaduz (Liechtenstein) to Porto-Alegre (Brazil)

There are several postal markings:

?	Manuscript via <i>Genf</i> (Geneva) and <i>Lisboa</i> (Lisbon)
05 Jun 1942	VADUZ / LIECHTENSTEIN cds
05 Jun 1942	BUCHS (ST. GALLEN) in Switzerland cds on reverse
?	OPENED BY EXAMINER 5453 type 1K1 label (Ref. 2) applied at Bathurst
10 Jul 1942	Unreadable purple cds on reverse
18 Jul 1942	PORTO-ALEGRE cds arrival mark on reverse
?	CENSURA / RIO GRANDE DO SUL handstamp (a state in Brazil)

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Communication between Nigeria and Enemy Territory

Bob Maddocks

Further to my article on the above topic based on research in the Gambia (Ref. 1), I have since come across Government notices on the same subject which were published in the Nigeria Gazette on 28 March 1940 and 29 August 1940. The content of the mentioned leaflet of U.K. origin has obviously been adopted and adapted so that the guidelines and conditions conform to Nigeria censorship requirements.

It should be noted that the neutral country used initially for this service was Holland; when Germany occupied that country the facility was switched to Portugal. Transgressions against the regulations of the scheme were found in some letters proceeding to enemy occupied territory from the French Cameroons in particular, usually the mentioning of place names. The letters were therefore not allowed to go forward by the British Censors even when the French censors had previously cleared them.

It is assumed that similar Government notices would have appeared in the Gambia, Sierra Leone and Gold Coast Gazettes, also in 1940.

NIGERIA GAZETTE 28 March 1940	NOTICE No. 313	wishes to send a reply, that the reply should be addressed to the sender care of Post Box 601, Amsterdam.
NOTES FOR PERSONS WISHING TO COMMUNICATE WITH FRIENDS IN ENEMY COUNTRIES OR A COUNTRY IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE ENEMY.		4. The communication to Chief Censor, Lagos, must enclose Postal Order value 2s. plus 1½d. stamp affixed to Postal Order. This fee will be paid to Messrs. Thos. Cook and will cover :-
1. Letters should be written in English or German without the address of the sender, and must contain nothing but matter of personal interest. No enclosure of the following nature is permitted - any printed matter, map, plan, sketch, drawing, print, photograph or revenue stamp. No reference should be made to any phase of the war. No mention should be made in such letters of any office of Thos. Cook & Sons, Ltd., at home or abroad.	2. Communications must be as brief as possible in order to avoid delay in censoring.	(1) The postage of one envelope containing one communication to the neutral country. (2) Postage from the neutral country to the enemy country. (3) In case a reply is sent from the correspondent in the enemy country, the fee also includes postage from the neutral country to Messrs. Cook's Head Office. (4) Letters exceeding one ounce in weight will be subject to an additional charge (sic). (5) Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., undertake this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part or on the part of any person or agent employed by them. (6) Communications for Prisoners of War (i.e., British and Allied Naval Military and Air Force prisoners and civilian internees) must not be sent under the foregoing arrangement, but forwarded in accordance with the regulations to be obtained at any Post Office.
3. Letters must be placed in an open envelope fully addressed to the addressee. The envelope containing the letter should be placed in an outer envelope and posted to the Chief Censor, Lagos who will forward it to Messrs. Thos. Cook, London (who are acting as intermediaries), together with a memorandum plainly written, containing in block characters the name and full address of the sender, and an open addressed envelope for the forwarding of a reply, should one be received from the correspondent. The correspondent in Germany should be informed, if he		

Government notice number 909 of 29 August 1940 contained an article that was almost identical, apart from that the address given at the end of the third paragraph was given as Post Box 506 Lisbon, and the stamp value in paragraph 4 was increased to 2½d. Also, there was an additional paragraph at the end:

Letters can be sent by this service to persons residing in Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, Danzig, Denmark, German occupied France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Italian possessions, Luxembourg, Norway, German occupied Poland and Channel Islands.

Reference

1. Maddocks R.J., "Postal Communication between British and Enemy Occupied Territory", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp13-15 (numbered pp309-311), WASC, January 1995

The Cleft Stick Endures

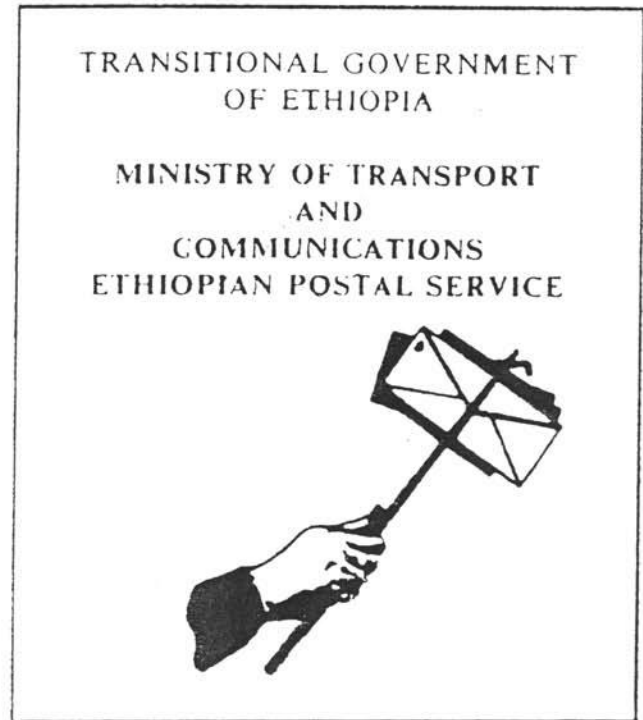
Bob Maddocks

In this age of high-tech communications and high company profiles it is indeed hard to believe that there is still a place for the humble cleft stick. Long thought to have been consigned to the dusty papers of postal history, this predecessor of modern postal services surprisingly lives on.

And quite visibly so in Ethiopia where I found the cleft stick is used as the official emblem of the Ethiopian Postal Services and appears painted on the country's bright yellow letter boxes as illustrated below.



Letter box



Post Office leaflet

I was forbidden however to take any photographs of the Post Office as it was a more substantial government installation!



Forged Gambian TPO Postmark

Frank Walton



The January 1996 issue of *The American Philatelist* (Ref. 1) contained an article relating the story of a group of 45 faked British colonial postmarks discovered in the estate of a deceased American dealer. All have fixed dates, several of which were clearly devised to be used on 'first day' covers. The majority of the marks relate to Caribbean Islands, although the one illustrated below is a forgery of the Gambia Type 3a(i), i.e. TPO No. 2 with no year or time in datestamp (Ref. 2).

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mercer Bristow of the American Philatelic Expertizing Service, PO Box 8000, State College, PA 16803, USA. A complete set of original strikes can be obtained from Mr Bristow for \$10.

References

1. Lawrence K., "British Empire Fake Alert", *The American Philatelist*, p24, January 1996
2. Andrew J.O. (Ed.), *The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia*, pp119-120, Robson Lowe, 1985

The Desert Motor Route to Nigeria 1934-35

Jeremy Martin

During the 1920s and 1930s much attention was paid to the acceleration of mail between the United Kingdom and West Africa. Mostly this was concerned with the use of air routes but in 1934 some thought was given to using a route across the Sahara Desert inaugurated by two French companies using motor vehicles. Information is by courtesy of P.O. Archives (Ref. 1).

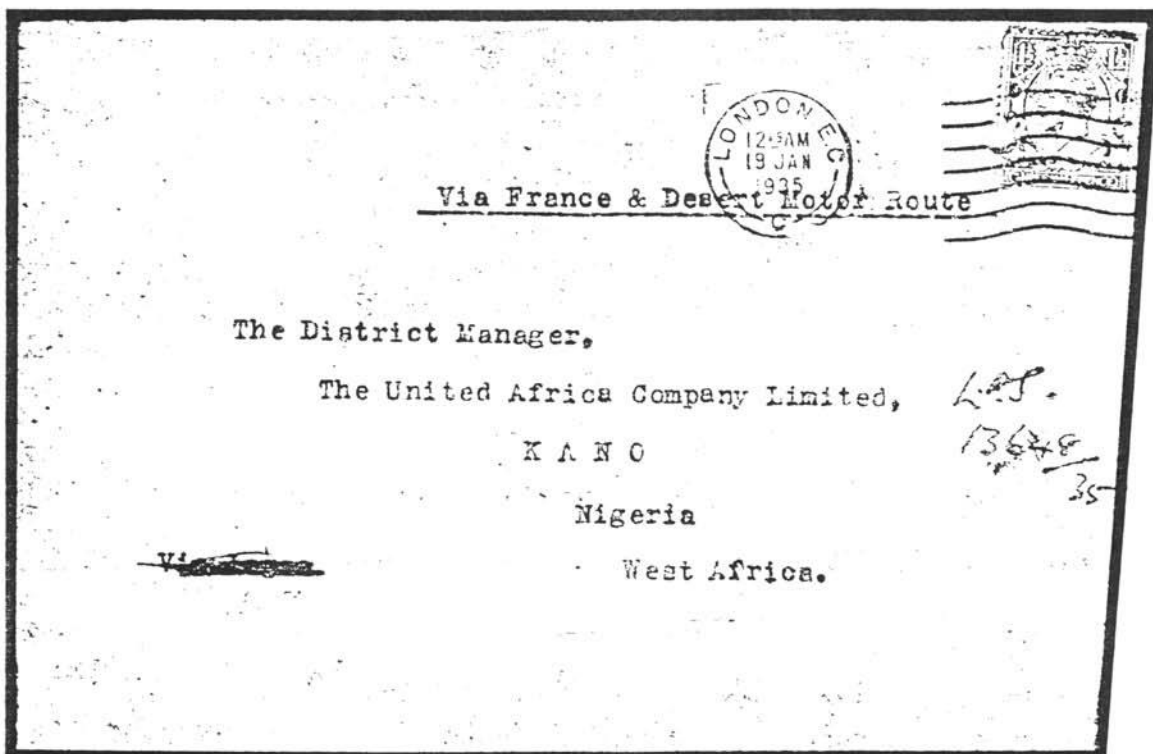
The French companies concerned were the Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne (CGT) and Société Algérienne des Transports Tropicaux (SAT).

On 9 February 1934 the Crown Agents wrote to the G.P.O. :

“It has come to our notice that in the accompanying leaflet issued by the Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne it is stated (page 5) that the French Post Office uses that company’s regular services for the carriage of mails for the Niger region.

From the time tables on pages 7 and 24 of the leaflet it would appear that, when connections are available as advertised, letters despatched via Algiers or Oran and thence by the route indicated could reach Lagos in 15-17 days e.g. 2-4 to Algiers, 2 to Colomb-Béchar, 9 to Kano and 2 to Lagos. Since the ordinary mails to Nigeria are fortnightly only, the route indicated would apparently offer an important alternative service in certain weeks about once a month.

I have the honour to enquire therefore whether (a) ordinary letters and (b) air-mail letters could be accepted for transmission by the route given if so desired and, if so, how should they be marked (and, as regards (b), in our case, stamped) and the latest times for posting.”



London to Kano via Desert Motor Route - Posted 19 January 1935, backstamped at Kano 19 February 1935

The G.P.O. entered into correspondence with the French postal authorities and on 7 November 1934 issued a statement to the Postal Services Department:

“It is proposed to advertise the new service in the Daily List as follows :- ‘Via France and SAT Motor Service’ or ‘via France and CGT Motor Service’.

In connection with these new services the Postal Services Department will perhaps wish to see the accompanying booklets of the Société Algérienne des Transports Tropicaux, giving particulars of the Motor Service and the Nigerian Railway connections between Kano and Lagos, which has been obtained from the United Africa Company, Unilever House.

It will be seen from page 23 that the trains from Kano to Lagos depart on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11.20 and as the SAT Motor Service is not due at Kano on Saturday until 17.00 apparently there will be no onward connection to Lagos until the following Wednesday (a manuscript note has been added “*CGT arrive Kano Sunday; will make same connection*”).

A schedule based upon this timetable showing the dates on which mails forwarded by the motor services will be due at Lagos is attached. It will be seen that mails by the SAT service and the CGT service (when available) will arrive at Lagos on the same day and also that, as far as Lagos is concerned, there will be no advantage in the date of arrival over the subsequent Elder Dempster outlets until 30 March 1935 when, owing to an alteration in the sailings, the Elder Dempster vessels will sail on the Wednesday before the despatch for the Motor Service instead of the Wednesday after. When this alteration takes place the despatches by the Motor Service will offer a week’s advantage in arrival at Lagos over the following service by the Elder Dempster Line.

Presumably the SAT service should not be advertised in the Daily List on the occasions when the CGT service is available as the latter service, with apparently the same date of arrival, will offer a later posting (a manuscript “*agreed*” has been added). Despatches for Extra-European destinations are not normally made up on Sundays, and it is proposed to advertise CGT service as closing on Saturdays at 18.00.”

In P.O. Archives are details of a complaint and the original letter is held on file. Firstly, the rate was only 1½d. The envelope was date stamped 12⁺⁵ AM, presumably 00.05 on Saturday 19 January 1935, to connect with the CGT service for which mails closed at 18.00. The letter arrived at Kano on 19 February 1935, 31 days later instead of the anticipated nine days. On the front “*Via Lagos*” has been crossed out. No reasons for the delay are on file.

The irregular service and other problems caused the G.P.O. to inform the French P.O. in October 1935 that they would not utilise the route at present.

Reference

1. Post Office Archives 5136 P22594 / 1936.

Waterlow Samples

Alec Turner

I have recently become interested in one particular aspect of postage stamp printing by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., and would ask members of the West Africa Study Circle if they can help me to evaluate this further.

During the long period when they printed stamps for many countries Waterlows produced numbers of "samples" using the dies and plates in their possession (and with permission). These printer's samples were used by the Waterlow representatives to show the ability of the Company to produce high quality work, usually of recess printing but later also by lithography.

One such of these items has recently attracted my attention and this concerns those samples, usually in colours differing from the issued stamps, either perf. or imperf. stuck on to card and having a number prefixed by the letters S.T. At present even the precise meaning of the letters of this prefix is unknown - possibly Specimen Timbres. The Nigeria and Sierra Leone stamps are all in issued colours and punched with holes to prevent fraudulent usage.

Such items are frequently found as singles although cards from the Sample Books and showing multiple stamps are known. The S.T. numbers have so far proved unique to specific stamp colour combinations. Occasionally these stamps may be found as multiples e.g strips of three.

The numbering is sequential to the period of use but unfortunately this means that the stamps for any one country or area are spread over the lists. The Waterlow Study Circle is attempting to create a definitive listing. We have been helped considerably by the work done, initially by Marcus Samuel later revised by Geoffrey Wood, on the material available at the time Waterlows was taken over by De la Rue. The Marcus Samuel lists are in articles in the Essay Proof Journal. However each stamp needs to be positively identified (SG number etc) together with colour of the sample stamp and format (from miniature sheets, composite sheets or full plate etc). Confirmation of those shown in the listing below would be welcome as well as any additions, amendments, revisions or comments. It is to be hoped that with the co-operation of Groups and Societies a definitive listing will eventually be produced.

Any information would be greatly appreciated, via the editor of *Cameo*.

West African Waterlow Samples Recorded

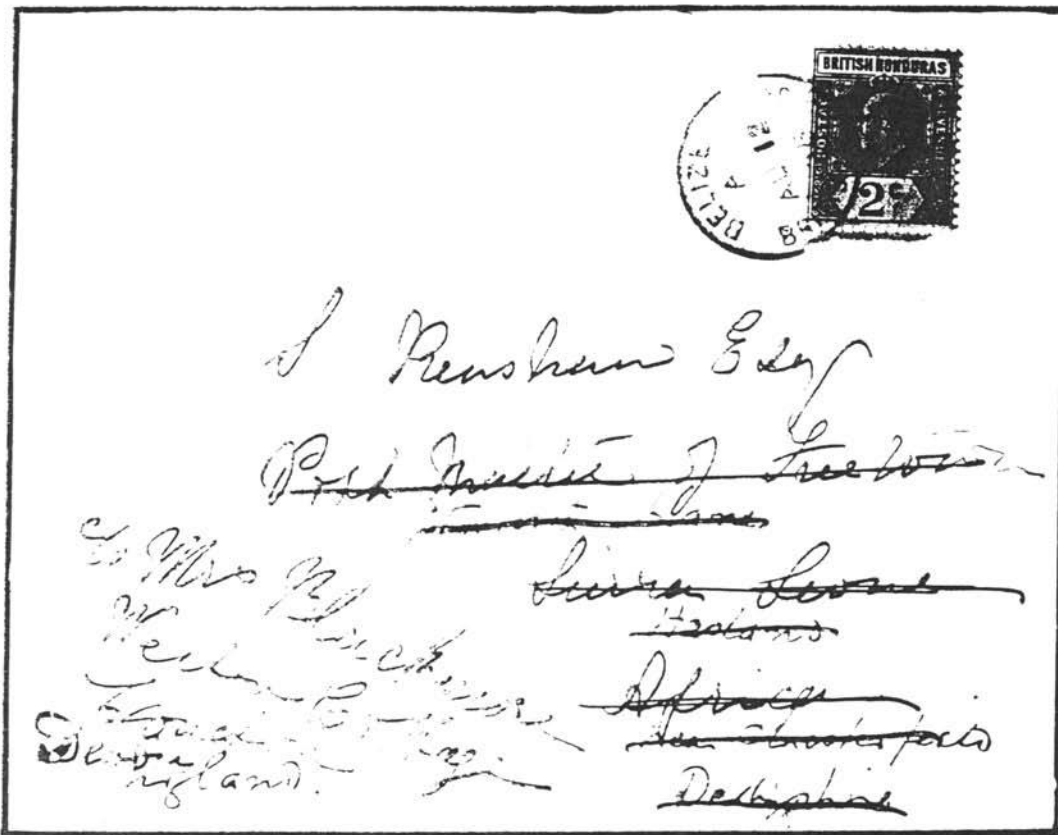
ST Number	Country	Date	Description	SG	Value	Colours	Comments
1655	Nigeria	1935	Silver Jubilee	31	2d	Green & indigo	
3296 }	Nigeria	1953	Definitive	{ 71	1½d	Blue-green	Type A or B? Die 1 or 1a?
3297 }				{ 72	2d	?	
3298 }				{ 73	3d	?	
3299 }				{ 74	4d	Black & blue	
3300 }	Sierra Leone	1956	Definitive	{ 210	½d	Black & deep lilac	Perf. ?
3301 }				{ 212	1½d	Black & ultramarine	
3302 }				{ 214	3d	Black & bright blue	

In the above table it is uncertain whether the ST numbers map onto the SG numbers in ascending order or not. Confirmation is sought on this point.

Research through the Sierra Leone Royal Gazettes

Frank Walton

For several years the cover illustrated below has laid in my collection with a few question marks. Tec Proud has generously donated a large volume of postal history related photocopies from the Sierra Leone Royal Gazettes to the WASC library. This material provided the answers to several mysteries, and serves to illustrate well the manner in which one can research postal history through published information.



Cover from British Honduras addressed to S. Renshaw Esq., Post Master of Freetown

Postal markings : 12 Aug 1905 Belize; 26 Aug 1905 London; 15 Sep 1905 Freetown cds; manuscript re-addressing to Chesterfield, Derbyshire; 02 Oct 1905 Chesterfield; manuscript re-addressing to Honiton, Devon.

The questions were who was S. Renshaw Esq., as he was never the Post Master of Freetown? Philip Beale lists all incumbents of the job, but S. Renshaw is not amongst them. Why was it necessary to re-route the envelope and which vessels carried the letter?

The first of these can be answered very easily by observing almost any of the Gazettes from the first half of 1905 where the majority of Post Office Notices are under the name of Samuel Renshaw, Acting Postmaster-General. The latest such of these is dated 16 August 1905, well after this cover was despatched from British Honduras.

The most crucial piece of information is given in the Gazette dated 25 August 1905, where it is noted under the heading *Leave of Absence* that:

“Mr. S. RENSHAW, Assistant Colonial Treasurer, vacation leave for two months and return leave for two months, from date of arrival in England.

Mr. RENSHAW left the Colony for England on the 26th instant.”

A subsequent Gazette provides the information that the s.s. *Sobo* left Freetown on 15 September 1905, matching neatly the Freetown postmark.

Sierra Leone 2/WIR Perfin

Frank Walton

Philip Beale has written previously in *Cameo* (Ref. 1) about the perfins used by the West Indian Regiment in Sierra Leone, and more recently in his book (Ref. 2). Rosemary Smith, a member of the Perfin Society, showed me recently extracts from that society's auction lists which included an example of the ½d value from each of the two Victorian keyplates (ie SG27 and SG41), both of which are previously unrecorded by the WASC. To my knowledge there are now eight values, but details of the actual dates of use is sparse. Any further information regarding these stamps would be most welcomed.

SG	Stamp	Dates Recorded
27	½d Green	
28	1d Carmine	
31	2½d Ultramarine	04 May 1896
41	½d Dull mauve & green	20 Oct 1897 ?? Sep 190?
45	2½d Dull mauve & ultramarine	?? Aug 1897 10 Oct 1897
46	3d Dull mauve & slate	
49	6d Dull mauve	
74	1d Dull purple & rosine	



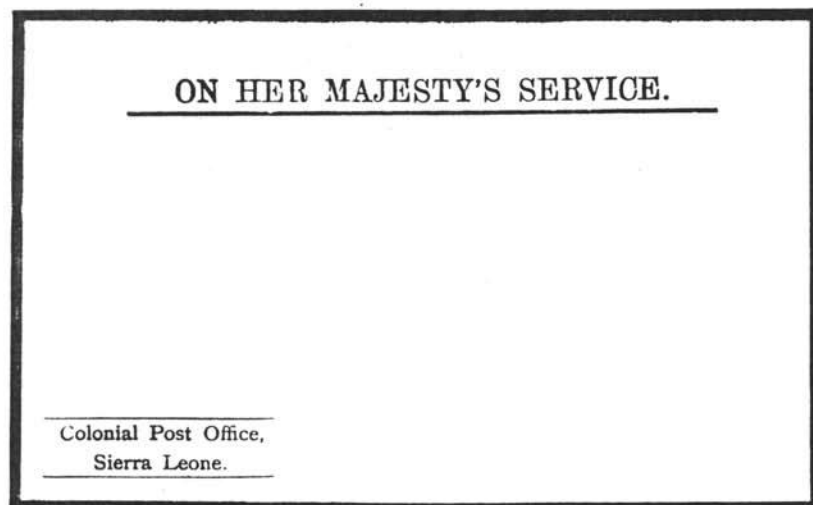
References

1. Beale P.O., *Cameo*, Volume 2 p179, WASC, July 1983
2. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p21, RPSL, London 1988



Sierra Leone OHMS Envelope

Frank Walton



This tiny Victorian OHMS envelope measures just 105 x 64 mm, and has an orange embossed crest on the flap. It must have had a purpose for Post Office business, but what could this possibly have been? One suggestion was that it may have been designed to advise senders of the outcome of AR letters. Has this size envelope been recorded before for either Sierra Leone or for any other colony?

Sierra Leone Postal Services Ltd.

Bob Maddocks



Support our Troops
SIERRA LEONE ARMY AIRBORNE & AIR FORCE REGIMENT

LETTERS FROM THE WARFRONT

ONLY THE POSTAL SERVICE CAN DO IT!

We provide Nationwide & Worldwide Mail Services

- LETTERS, PACKETS, PARCELS
- REGULAR & REGISTERED EXPRESS
- REGISTERED & INSURED SERVICES
- INLAND TELEGRAPHS
- DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS
- PHOTOCOPIES
- SAVINGS BANK
- POSTSHOP FOR STATIONERY, GIFTS, ETC.
- EMS - SUPER EXPRESS

EMS HIGH SPEED MAIL

- WE ARE CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY
- WE PROVIDE THE QUICKEST, HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS WORLDWIDE

We attach great importance to SPEED, SECURITY, SAFETY.

This illustration is from a photograph taken in Freetown in 1992. The poster on the bill board advertises the services of the Sierra Leone Postal Services Ltd.. The warfront refers to the fighting in Liberia.

Cameo Page Numbering Correction

Frank Walton

Unfortunately there was a mistake made in the page numbering of the first issue of the current volume of *Cameo*, ie Volume 5 Number 1, January 1995.

Instead of commencing again at Page 1 for a new volume, the sequence was continued from the end of the previous volume.

This was noticed and rectified in the following issue with the numbering there starting with Page 42, thus inferring a numbering from 1 to 41 in the previous issue.

In all future references, including the volume index, reference will be made to the inferred numbers rather than the printed ones. To do otherwise would potentially introduce duplicates towards the end of this volume, for example Vol. 5 p298 could be in either the January 1995 issue, or perhaps a 1999 issue.

Unfortunately there is another slight complication in that there are actually 42 pages in the issue concerned, and only 41 numbers available...

For those of you who wish to correct this mistake, please subtract 296 from the printed numbers. In simple terms, page 297 becomes page 1, 298 becomes 2, 299 becomes 3 and so on, until finally page 337 is renumbered 41. This exercise will leave the masthead page in the first two issues of Volume 5 unnumbered, but I feel that these are most likely not to require referencing in the future.

Sorry to confuse anyone!

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Small spaces at the end of pages are ideal for members small advertisements. Why not try *Cameo* to advertise items for sale - or publish a small 'wants' list for those items that have been eluding you for so long?

Rates are very reasonable (see page 141); contact Peter Rolfe for further details.

Sierra Leone Year of Pig Sheetlet Value Error

Peter Rolfe, with Anthony Abihanna

In 1995, a number of territories issued stamps to commemorate the Chinese "Year of The Pig", including Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, as was reported in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (Ref. 1), a major error was discovered when the stamps were placed on sale in Freetown.



Figure 1 : Top portion of incorrect 75c sheetlet



Figure 2 : Top portion of corrected 100Le sheetlet

They were issued on 8 May 1995 in a sheetlet of 16 stamps of the same value with four different designs se-tenant plus a miniature sheet. These are listed by Stanley Gibbons as SG2240-4. However, after they had been offered for sale at the Post Office, it was noticed that the inscribed value of the items on the sheetlet was 75c instead of the intended 100Le. The sheetlet was immediately withdrawn, all stocks destroyed, and was re-issued a few weeks later with the correct value. But some had already been sold, Gibbons have suggested perhaps 25 sheetlets, and therefore they are proposing to list the error in the next catalogue. This series of events was experienced first hand by one of our members in Sierra Leone, Anthony Abihanna, whose comments are quoted :-

“The story is at 8.00 in the morning, the stamps were at the Philatelic counter. At 8.30, the General Manager discovered the error and asked for an immediate withdrawal of the error. I was myself at the Post Office that morning, and did buy ONLY ONE of each set they have available for my personal collection. If I did knew about the error, I would have bought 50 or 100 or maybe the whole quantity (the face value is so low, so it won't harm my pocket). Later on during the day, after I noticed the error, I returned to buy more but was told that the issue has been withdrawn. I went to the General Manager and he insisted on me returning the one set I have purchased earlier. Naturally, I refused.”

Those members who have corresponded with Mr. Abihanna in the past will, no doubt, be relieved to hear that he has survived the chaotic conditions in Sierra Leone although he appears to have moved from Makeni to Freetown.

As a footnote, Stanley Gibbons also mention a similar error over an incorrect date on the FAO miniature sheet issued later in the year. However I have not yet seen this.

Reference

1. Aggersberg D., “Catalogue Column”, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, p94, April 1996

FINE SIERRA LEONE

A selection from my extensive stock of Sierra Leone

SG1	fine mint, better than usual	£95
SG 2	fine mint, above average, scarce	75
SG3	fine mint centred slightly to right	100
SG7	fine but ragged perforations	35
SG8	fine but clipped perforations to left	35
SG10	plate proof, with surface marks	25
SG12	fine mint, ragged perforations	50
SG17	and bisected SG19 well tied to piece	30
SG18	fine mint	20
SG20	fine mint	21
SG22	Opt '5s', without red line. Fiscally used	20
SG22	Opt '5s' as above, sloping bar to '5' RARE	30
SG27	50% of type 1, code 'B' WATERLOO. Scarce	15

Many other fine items in stock - please ask for list

ROBERT SEAMAN, ADPS

Copt Hall, Stock, Essex CM4 9BA (Tel/fax 01277 840777)

West African Censorship - An Update

Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton

Since *West African Censorship - World War I and II* was published in 1993, numerous date extensions have been noted. In addition to the new dates, there are new censor numbers for a few of the types. All of the additional information to hand is listed below for members to annotate their copies of the book should they wish.

The authors would like to acknowledge Mike Roberts, Brian McCloy and Chris Miller for forwarding information, and would encourage anyone that can add yet more data to do so.

In the period since publication, there have been several significant discoveries made that explain the background to censorship undertaken in West Africa. Most notable are the articles in *Cameo* by Bob Maddocks (Refs. 1 to 5) and Michael Wright (Ref. 6).

Perhaps, one day, a second edition of the book will be produced, pulling together all of the now known information.

Page	Type	Number	New ERD	New LRD
ASCENSION				
11	2			10 Apr 1940
11	3	XX/'MB'		
13	1			30 Mar 1944
CAMEROONS				
16	1A	19		13 Apr 1943
18	4		13 Apr 1943	
GAMBIA				
21	4A	1		04 Jun 1943
21	4A	3	12 Feb 1943	14 Jun 1945
21	5		08 Dec 1941	
22	1		01 Sep 1939	
22	2			09 Jun 1943
23	3			11 Oct 19??
26	R11	342		28 May 1945
GOLD COAST				
28	1C		12 Aug 1914	
28	1D			28 Feb 1916
28	1F		16 Mar 1915	14 Apr 1915
29	2			29 Jun 1917
29	3			14 Mar 1919
33	1A	20	20 May 1941	
34	3	1	21 Jul 1944	
37	L4A	35 Grey	01 Jan 1944	05 Feb 1944

Page	Type	Number	New ERD	New LRD
GOLD COAST, continued				
38	L4Ad	232	18 Aug 1944	
41	R9	184		?? Dec 1941
41	R11	114	20 Dec 1943	
42	A200	1669	07 Jan 1942	07 Jan 1942
42	A200	1948	05 Jul 1941	
42	A200	2128	22 Sep 1941	
42	A200	2811	07 Jul 1941	
43	A600	7817	31 Aug 1944	31 Aug 1944
NIGERIA				
48	1E	11		29 Aug 1942
48	1A	13		15 May 1941
48	1A	21		24 Nov 1941
48	1B	24	06 Jan 1941	
48	1E	30		12 Mar 1942
49	2A			29 Apr 1944
51	5	14		02 Nov 1944
51	5	20	06 Oct 1943	
51	5	26	?? Oct 1942	
51	6	11	?? ??? 1943	?? ??? 1943
51	6	21		07 May 1945
52	8		21 Nov 1942	
53	1B	11	04 Oct 1941	
53	1B	12		22 Aug 1940
54	1C	28		29 Aug 1942
56	A200	1778	04 Sep 1941	
56	A200	2817	05 Aug 1941	05 Aug 1941
56	A600	7141	27 Jul 194?	27 Jul 194?
57	A500	2938	22 Dec 1942	22 Dec 1942
58	A1304	3	16 May 1940	16 May 1940
58	A1304	5	18 May 1940	18 May 1940
58	A1304	9	Exists	
ST HELENA				
65	2	4	30 Sep 1942	
69	2B	1	20 Apr 1944	
SIERRA LEONE				
71	mss	Passed C.B.B.	05 Oct 1914	
72	1(B)	2	01 Mar 1917	
72	1(B)	7	22 Mar 1917	
72	1(B)	11	24 Oct 1917	05 Nov 1917
72	3	1	02 Mar 1918	28 Jun 1918
72	3	11	22 Jul 1918	
72	4	none	25 Mar 1918	
74	3	S E/2		10 Jun 1918
76	2	2		18 Jun 1942
76	2	3		20 Aug 1941
76	2	6	14 Feb 1940	
76	2	10		22 May 1940

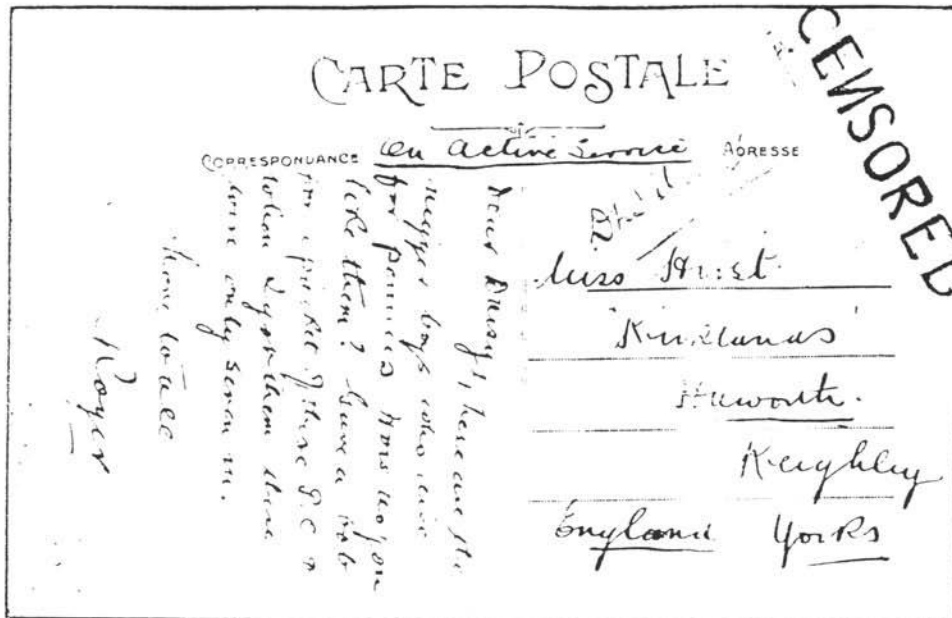
Page	Type	Number	New ERD	New LRD
SIERRA LEONE, continued				
76	2	12	03 Jan 1940	
76	3	3	14 Nov 1939	14 Nov 1939
76	3	7		09 May 1941
76	3	11	20 Jan 1940	
77	5	QQ/2	10 Aug 1942	24 May 1945
77	5	QQ/3		28 Feb 1945
77	5	QQ/5		07 Mar 1945
77	6			?? Sep 1939
78	1d			20 Jan 1940
78	1e			10 Apr 1941
79	2b	Q.Q. 17	14 July 1942	
80	3	QQ/14	01 Dec 1942	30 Dec 1943
80	3	QQ/19		?? May 1945
80	4	QQ/34	09 Dec 1944	
80	4	QQ/35		24 Apr 1944
80	4	QQ/36	17 Apr 1944	
81	5	QQ/38		07 Mar 1945
81	5	QQ/40	01 Jun 1945	01 Jun 1945
81	1	1	12 Jul 1942	
81	1	3	14 Nov 1939	
82	R10	217	17 Apr 1942	17 Apr 1942
83	A200	2581	24 Oct 1940	
83	A201	3364	05 Nov 1941	
84	A500	3016	04 Jun 1943	
84	A500	3074	14 Apr 1943	
84	A500	3148	09 Feb 1942	
84	A500	3197	07 Feb 1943	
84	A500	3416	06 Jan 1943	
84	A500	3421	22 Nov 1942	
84	A500	3426		17 Jan 1944
84	A500	3472		19 Oct 1943
84	A600	4215	09 Jun 1944	09 Jun 1944
84	A600	4234		04 Apr 1945
84	A600	7833	04 Oct 1944	
TOGO				
90	3			07 Aug 1919
BFPO				
96		46		22 Aug 1945
96		106	05 Jul 1941	
96		561		19 Nov 1943

References

1. Maddocks R.J., "Censorship", *Cameo*, Volume 4 p241, WASC, January 1994
2. Maddocks R.J., "Base Censorship in West Africa in WWII", *Cameo*, Volume 4 p283, WASC, July 1994
3. Maddocks R.J., "Postal Communication between British and Enemy Occupied Territory", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp13-15 (numbered pp309-311), WASC, January 1995
4. Maddocks R.J., "Further Notes on Postal Censorship in West Africa During WWII", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp67-71, WASC, July 1995
5. Maddocks R.J., "Italian Prisoners of War in West Africa in WWII and Postal Censorship", *Cameo*, Volume 5 p136, WASC, January 1996
6. Wright M.St J., "History of Censorship in WW2", *Cameo*, Volume 5 pp131-135, WASC, January 1996

Censored Senegal Postcard

Bob Maddocks



This is a stampless, undated view card addressed to England apparently from somewhere in West Africa. There are unfortunately no postal markings and it has been endorsed *On Active Service* over the signature *D. Wilson*, with no rank or unit added.

The interest lies in the cachet CENSORED applied in the top right hand corner; the letter N has been reversed in the roughly made handstamp. Also, on the view side, the name of the place in Senegal (probably Dakar) has been blacked out.

Has this censor handstamp been seen before? Is it more likely to have been applied on board ship than at a censor station ashore in British West Africa or Occupied Togo?

Southern Cameroons Provisional UKTT Overprints

Rob May and Michael Wright

At the Leamington Spa WASC meeting in 1993, Rob May started a discussion with various members about the listings of shades and types of the 2d grey value of this set. As so often happens, the discussion snowballed into research, mainly by Michael Wright at the British Library. Rob May's contribution has been to ask the questions and then write the answers! This article now covers all of the values and largely confirms the notes in the various catalogues.

The Crown Agents Requisition Book in the British Library shows five entries relating to this set, numbered 907/1 to 907/5 inclusive. These are set out below, including all inconsistencies. Table 1 provides as many questions as answers.

TABLE 1

**907/1 ADMINISTRATION G9 S. CAMEROONS (NIGERIA), OVERPRINTED CAMEROONS UKTT.
POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS**

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Dispatched	Dispatched Sheets	Date	Sheets
½d	8,767	526,020	16 Sep 1960	Bur 8,000	13 Oct 1960	843
1½d	2,067	124,020	16 Sep 1960	Bur 2,000	13 Oct 1960	73
3d	15,834	950,040	16 Sep 1960	Bur 2,000	13 Oct 1960	13,831
4d	1,734	104,040	16 Sep 1960	Bur 1,500	13 Oct 1960	257
6d	3,084	185,040	16 Sep 1960	Bur 1,000	13 Oct 1960	2,216
1/-	3,500	210,000	16 Sep 1960	Bur 1,500	13 Oct 1960	2,200
2/6	1,125	67,500	16 Sep 1960	Bur 1,000	13 Oct 1960	137
5/-	1,059	63,540	16 Sep 1960	Bur 1,000	13 Oct 1960	64
10/-	525	31,500	16 Sep 1960	Bur 500	13 Oct 1960	27
£1	510	30,600	16 Sep 1960	Bur 500	13 Oct 1960	11

STAMPS TO BE COLLECTED FROM BUREAU STOCKS FOR OVERPRINTING

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Dispatched
1d	2,784	167,040	13 Mar 1961
2d	1,417	85,020	13 Mar 1961

STAMP FROM NIGERIA TO BE OVERPRINTED AND ADDED TO ABOVE

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Dispatched
1d	1,000	60,000	13 Mar 1961
2d	3,000	180,000	13 Mar 1961

THESE QUANTITIES TO BE ALLOCATED AS BELOW

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Dispatched
1d	3,784	227,040	Bur 120,000 stamps
2d	4,417	265,020	Bur 120,000 stamps

Table 1 Remarks Column :

“NO INSPECTION With the exception of Bureau Supplies, sheets of stamps to be numbered 1 up each duty interleaved with rail paper and parcelled in 400's in brown paper. Specimens required 411 + 6, PP 100, CA 1, CB 1, CO 3, BM 1, Com. Inst. 1, HM & Contractor. (Specimens to be taken from Bureau Supplies).”

The number 1,657 appears in manuscript to the right of Table 1C. Its meaning is unclear.

Comments on Table 1

It seems that the apparent date of dispatch to the Cameroons was by air freight on 13 October 1960 even though the release date was 1 October 1960. It also seems that no 1d or 2d values were delivered until 13 March 1961. Both these dates are hard to believe. Could members check their dated used copies for early October, please. Perhaps the dates are of the acknowledgment of receipt?

The locally released numbers were heavily skewed towards 3d, 6d and 1/- values, with very small numbers of the 1½d and the values of 2/6 and higher.

The 1d and 2d quantity allocated to the Bureau is expressed in stamps, equivalent to 2,000 sheets of each stamp, giving net quantities to the Cameroons of 1,784 sheets of 1d and 2,417 sheets of 2d values.

There are some arithmetic inconsistencies, For some reason the total of sheets despatched is usually a little higher than the numbers printed but the excesses for ½d (76 sheets), 6d (132 sheets) and 1/- (200 sheets) seem surprising. The 3d actually shows three less sheets distributed than printed.

The original table shows the Bureau allocation as a number of stamps as well as a number of sheets. These are correct multiples of 60 times the number of sheets, except for the 6d value where the number of stamps is equivalent to 1,500 sheets.

The Requisition Book confirms that the 1d and 2d values were overprinted on existing stocks drawn both from the CA Stamp Bureau and returns from Nigeria. Unfortunately there is no record of which previous printings were used. We can say that, if the 2d values are not identifiably the later De la Rue printing then they should precisely correspond to a printing in the Nigeria listing; so in the case of the 2d they should be type A or type B in the right group of shades.

A clue is provided by the Crown Agents specimens from their archives. All values are present and all except the 1d and 2d are imperforate. The 1d and 2d are perforated copies of the printings made in Brussels from rotary plates, by Waterlow's subsidiary, L'Imprimerie Belge de Securite. We have therefore concluded that:

- 1) The majority of values were overprints on a new printing of the Nigeria stamps. In particular the 3d value, whose printing (as with the 1d) had been transferred to Brussels, reverted to Waterlow flat-bed plates. These were numbered 4-2; plate 4 was not shown (in 1983, in the last edition of SG Elizabethan Catalogue which gave such details) as having been used for unoverprinted stamps. Presumably there were insufficient surplus 3d stamps, which at the time paid the inland letter rate, to make it worthwhile to overprint them, and new supplies could not be obtained from Brussels. The new plate 4 used for this value was the frame plate. The rest are printed from the last plates used for Nigeria Stamps.
- 2) The distinction in the Requisition Book between most values and the 1d and 2d values “to be collected from Bureau Stocks for Overprinting” is a real one. These were the only values that were already in stock to meet the new order for overprinted stamps to be used during the Plebiscite period.

- 3) The stocks from the Bureau were probably exclusively of the Brussels printings of 1d and 2d, probably including both SG4 and 4b (see footnote on SG numbers).
- 4) As the overprints on 1d and 2d values were approved on 29 August 1960 at the same time as the majority of the other values, there seems no logical reason to delay sending these values to the Cameroons until 13 March 1961. This date in the Requisition Book probably refers to a subsequent sending of stocks of the overprints on the stamps returned from Nigeria. This should be the release date of SG 4a.
- 5) A note in the table against the "Nigeria returned" batch shows the despatched numbers as:

1d	60,000 printed	15,000 by air	2d	180,000 printed	45,000 by air
		45,000 by sea			135,000 by sea.

None were therefore released to the Bureau.

- 6) The returned stamps could have been from any printing of the Nigeria 1d and 2d values. Because the Brussels printings were the most recent despatches the majority of the returns should have been of these and would therefore be indistinguishable from the returns from Bureau stocks. The philatelic interest is in finding the exceptions; stray older printings that got into the returns.
- 7) The figure of 1,657 seems likely to be the number of sheets sent to the Cameroons. Adding the 6,000 sheets to the Bureau of the 2 values combined, gives a total allocation of 7,657 sheets against 8,201 overprinted. Could this reflect as many as 544 sheets unusable from the returned stocks?

Turning now to the later requisitions.

TABLE 2 907/2 TO BE COLLECTED FROM BUREAU STOCKS FOR DISPATCH BY AIR

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Date	Dispatched
½d	366	21,960	10 Apr 1961	366
1d	850	51,000	10 Apr 1961	850
1½d	850	51,000	10 Apr 1961	850
3d	1,400	84,000	10 Apr 1961	1,400
6d	950	57,000	10 Apr 1961	950
1/-	966	57,960	10 Apr 1961	950

Comments on Table 2

- 1) There is a shortfall in the numbers of sheets of 1/- stamps actually dispatched.
- 2) Comparing the numbers dispatched to Bureau stocks from Table 1 shows that:
 - a) The 1d values must be Brussels printings.
 - b) The 1½d dispatch of 850 sheets is out of all proportion to the 73 sheets that were the local stock available from October 1960 to April 1961. There was no particular postal need for this value that we know about. Was there a fiscal requirement?
 - c) The Bureau managed to dispatch 950 out of its original stock of the 6d value. If the stock was 1,000 sheets, the corollary to this is that collectors had bought no more than 3,000 sets of these stamps (50 x 60). This may support a view that the stock was actually 1,500 sheets, tying in the stamp numbers on Table 1.

**TABLE 3 907/3 TO BE COLLECTED FROM BUREAU STOCKS FOR
DISPATCH BY INSURED AIR PARCEL POST**

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Date	Dispatched
2/6	120	7,200	11 Apr 1961	120
5/-	60	2,600	11 Apr 1961	60
10/-	30	1,800	11 Apr 1961	30
£1	20	1,200	11 Apr 1961	20

TABLE 4 907/4 TO BE COLLECTED FROM BUREAU STOCKS FOR DISPATCH BY SURFACE ROUTE

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Date	Dispatched
½d	3,334	200,040	8 May 1961	3,334
2d	500	30,000	8 May 1961	500
2/6	250	15,000	8 May 1961	250
5/-	117	7,020	8 May 1961	117
10/-	34	2,040	8 May 1961	34
£1	20	1,200	8 May 1961	20

Comments on Table 4

- 1) The 2d values must be Brussels printings.
- 2) There are no despatch numbers for 1d and 2d values in October 1960, so it is impossible to decide whether Bureau stocks of these two values would now be running short.

TABLE 5 907/5

Duty	Sheets	Stamps	Bureau	B. Exchange
1d	3,334	200,040	50,040	Nil
1½d	917	55,020	50,040	2,000
2d	2,084	125,040	55,020	Nil
3d	17,084	1,025,040	25,020	Nil
6d	2,417	145,020	25,020	Nil
1/-	3,267	196,0200	25,020	1,000

NO INSPECTION, With the exception of Bureau supplies, sheets of stamps to be numbered up each duty interleaved with rail paper parcelled in 400's in brown paper 2 specimen stamps of each duty required CA1 CB1 (previously printed by Waterlows).

Comments on Table 5

An order was made at an unrecorded date for a reprint of six values. Three were cancelled on 29 June 1961 and the 1d, 2d and 6d values were then ordered (by Amendment of Contract dated 15 August 1961) to be dispatched "to G10 Stamp Bureau (none to Nigeria)". Only 2 specimens were required, for CA & CB.

The text seems to say that there was no dispatch to Southern Cameroons, but the numbers printed do not tally with the numbers to the Bureau. Is it feasible that the "G10" reference is to Cameroons and the words "None to Nigeria" are intended just to clarify the deletion of the word "Nigeria" in the Administration column? Examples have been seen with postmarks for commercial usage in Southern Cameroons.

General Conclusions

These records provide a reasonably complete picture, except to clarify which 1d and 2d values could be found overprinted on old stock.

In the case of the 1d the choice is between 2 shades of the Waterlow printing and also the Brussels printing. At present only the Brussels and De la Rue printings are listed and no Waterlow stamps have been reported, but they could possibly exist on returned stocks.

In the case of the 2d, there are the listed shades of the type A and B Brussels printings to look for. The basic stamp, SG 4 can be directly related to Nigeria SG 72cc, a Brussels type B printing. SG 4c is the new De la Rue printing, using the old bicolour plates, giving a similar result as a type B of the single colour plate. Any other listed stamps must correspond with previous Nigeria printings which were returned for overprinting.

Stanley Gibbons had listed a bluish grey, type B for many years, and recently listed a slate blue type A, as a result of three used stamps submitted to them. Their listing of shades on the basic Nigeria stamps is arguably incomplete and if the listings were to be made consistent the type B should match an additional basic Nigeria stamp, instead of being included in SG 72cc under the subscript "(shades)". The Elizabethan catalogue does not record a series of releases for this stamp, not helped by the lack of plate numbers on sheets printed by the rotary method in Brussels.

The type A "slate blue" should be the same as SG 72c but comparison of the shades is notoriously unreliable on these issues, especially on used copies.

However, the Elizabethan catalogue listed flaws for Type A only, on both shades; 2d partially double (Row 5/2 and 5/3), extra figure (Row 5/4) and line through TIN (Row 4/1). No flaws are listed for Type B. One of Rob May's used copies of Southern Cameroons SG 4a shows the extra figure flaw. The pair which is the other used example, is of an identical shade but shows no flaws. The postmarks are Buea 8 August 1961 on the single and Tiko 24 July 1961 on the pair.

So far no L'Imprimerie Belge type A slate violet (SG 72c) or type B (bluish grey) SG 72cb has turned up with the Cameroons overprint but their release dates of 23 July 1956 and 25 September 1957 make it unlikely that any stocks of these would have been returned.

Footnote re SG Numbers

Initially, Stanley Gibbons listed the original grey (Brussels) issue as SG 4 and the pale grey De la Rue issue as SG 4a. When the bluish-grey variety of the Brussels printing was listed later it was therefore numbered SG 4aa. In the 1991 edition, when they listed a further slate-blue shade, which was in Type A (not B as had been SG 4 and SG 4aa) they numbered it SG 4a and revised the numbering of SG 4aa to SG 4b and the De la Rue printing to SG 4c.

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King George V Key Plates - An Update

Peter Fernbank

I was recently privileged to view the magnificent range of plate number blocks of the KGV Universal key plate issues in the Royal collection. The importance of the collection to any student of these issues is the degree of completion, which must be unmatched. Of well over thirteen hundred possible combinations of value, plate number, watermark, paper shade etc. known to exist from the various colonies using this design I believe there to be less than thirty missing. From notes taken at the time I have been able to verify a number of hypotheses I have put forward in *Cameo* over the past few years, and also identify one or two where I was rather wide of the mark.

Gold Coast (and Togo) Duty Plates

In *Cameo* of January 1992 I illustrated plate number examples of the 2d, 3d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-, each with both single and double jubilee lines. The double lines were present on all printings from the new duty plates made for each value. These plate replacements were made in 1919 and 1920, and I presented an incomplete table of printings from plates 6 and 8 indicating those known to have double lines, attempting to define the first printing of each from the new plates. The Royal collection provided the answer in all cases, and the table can now be completed as shown below:

Colony	Date of Printing	2d	3d	1/-	2/-	5/-	Key Plate
Gold Coast	Dec 1918	s	s	s	s	s	6
Togo	Feb 1919		d	s	s	s	6
Togo	Oct 1919			s			6
Gold Coast	Oct 1919	s	d	s			6
Gold Coast	Mar 1920			s			8
Gold Coast	Jun 1920	s	d	s	d	d	8
Togo	Sep 1920	d	d	d	d	d	8
Gold Coast	Dec 1920	d	d	d	d	d	8

s = single line d = double line

Of particular interest was the 3d, the new plate being first used for the Togo printing of February 1919. A cut down stamp sized die proof, struck for the new duty plate, is known marked "*November 7th*" and "*120 leads*", but does not state the year of striking. The year date for this piece can thus be established as 1918.

Gold Coast (and Togo) Plate 1 Printings

In *Cameo* of July 1995 I mentioned that, of the two printings of the complete series made from Plate 1, only the ½d value appeared to have used Plate 1a (plate numbers in the top margin). All other values used Plate 1b, with numbers in the lower margin only. I suggested that for the first printing in 1913 both Plate 1a and Plate 1b had been used.

The Plate 1 blocks from the first (1913) printing in the Royal collection largely supported this contention. All were matching blocks from Plate 1b with the sole exception of the ½d, which was from Plate 1a. If a ½d block from Plate 1b had been available from this printing I believe it would almost certainly have been provided to maintain the symmetry of the remainder of the set supplied. It seems probable that the whole of the 1913 printing of the ½d was from Plate 1a, whilst all values for the 1915 printing were from Plate 1b, including the ½d. Both printings were subsequently used for the Togo local overprints.

Nigeria - ½d Plate 3

In *Cameo* of July 1993 I queried the apparent scarcity of the ½d Plate 3, and suggested that of the four invoices for requisition 17/15 in 1915 for this value only the last was from Plates 3 & 4. All of this last invoiced printing was used to make up booklets, the first three invoices being the last printings made from Plates 1 & 2 combined. I further suggested that the copy in the Royal collection, detached before the selvedge was removed from the sheets for the making up the booklet, may be unique. An intriguing theory, but proved wrong by the ½d block of four in the Royal collection which has sheet number '7189'.

Nigeria - Stamps 1914 to 1936, based on the notes of the late H.G.Porter, quotes all four invoices from this requisition as emanating from Plates 1 & 2. Since writing the original article I have searched through every page of De La Rue's *Colonial Stamps* books up to the next printing of the ½d (from Plates 4 & 7) in December 1919, and found no additional printings of the ½d.

The ½d (and 1d) for the 1915 printing were printed 240-set but cut into 120-set sheets, and was invoiced as follows:- 3000 sheets (17th May), 3000 (27th May), 1367 (5th June), and 1000 (28th June - all used to make up 10,000 booklets) i.e. 7,367 sheets plus booklets were despatched to the colony. Whilst I still consider it most probable that the two May invoices were from Plates 1 & 2, the first June invoice must have been from Plates 3 & 4 (to account for the existence of this ½d Plate 3 block), and, almost certainly, the second June invoice. If the sheets were numbered in the order they were printed, then '0001' to '6000' would be from Plates 1 & 2, and '6001' to '7367' from Plates 3 and 4. The sheet number '7189' in the Royal collection would seem to support this contention.

Sierra Leone Plate 1 Printings

In *Cameo* of July 1995 I attempted to allocate the various Plate 1 printings between Plate 1a and Plate 1b, based on plate number position and the number of digits in the sheet number. The plate blocks in the Royal collection, plus other material seen since, have generally confirmed the allocations made.

The first printings of the 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 9d and 10d in the collection were all from Plate 1a (top margin plate number). Of these the 2½d, 4d, 5d, and 7d had three digit sheet numbers, and the 1½d two, all as expected for the first printing in September 1912. The ½d in the collection was from Plate 1a, with a four digit number '0003', and is probably from the second printing in December 1912 (only 98 sheets in the first printing). Since the original article I have seen two further values, the 2d (Sheet No. 503) and a sheet of the 6d (Sheet No. 382), both from Plate 1a. These numbers confirm their origin from the December 1912 printing and support the allocation of Plate 1a to the ½d and 2½d of this printing. It therefore seems improbable that lower margin Plate 1 examples will be found of the 2d, 2½d and 6d.

Togo 1/- on Emerald Surfaced Paper

In *Cameo* of January and July 1994 I presented evidence for the existence of the Togo 1/- value (SG H53) on emerald surfaced paper with pale olive back, currently unlisted in the catalogue. The catalogue of the Royal collection lists two Plate 8 blocks of the 1/-. I was able to examine them, both front and back, and confirm that the emerald surface/pale olive back shade was undoubtedly printed and issued. The editor of Stanley Gibbons catalogue, David Aggersberg, has accepted this and in future editions there will be a minor change: H53b will become pale olive back, and the existing H53b emerald back will become H53c.

How to Submit an Article to *Cameo*

Frank Walton

If you have a cover or stamp which you think would be of interest to other members of the study circle, then please send details to the editor with an illustration. It doesn't matter how short or simple the article is - very often short articles are desperately required to fill the bottom of a page.

For short articles, any format is welcome; for larger articles it would make the editor's life a lot simpler if they could be presented in a more automated form. In order of convenience for me, I would prefer:

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