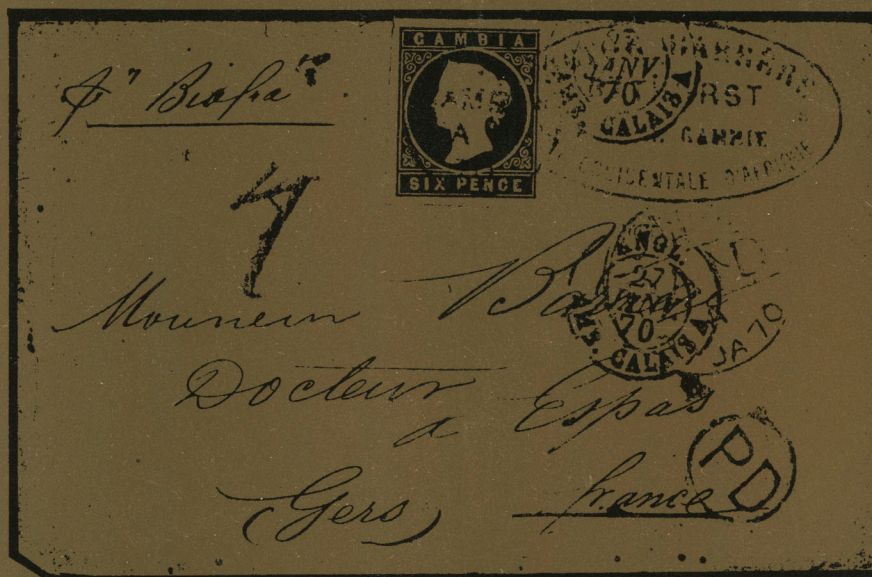


# CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle



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## Contents

Subject	Frames	Page
Display to The Royal Philatelic Society London		266
The West Africa Study Circle 1950 to 2000		266
List of Presidents		267
"Stamps for the Rate are not Available"	1, 2, 3	268
Sierra Leone Post-Independence	4, 5	270
War in West Africa to 1918	6, 7, 8	271
The Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1922	9, 10	272
Nigeria : George V Imperium Key Plates	11, 12	273
Early Gambia	13, 14	273
Development of Air Routes to South America	15, 16	274
French Equatorial Africa : Cameroun	17	275
Gold Coast Civil Censorship during World War II	18, 19	276
Gold Coast Government Railway and TPOs	20, 21	277
Gold Coast : George V Imperium Key Plates	22, 23, 24	278
The Cameroons : Partition and Re-unification	25, 26	279
Sierra Leone First Sixpence	27, 28	280
St Helena	29, 30	281
Cancellations of the Gold Coast 1875-1901	31, 32	282
Sierra Leone Early Airmails	33, 34	283
The Cinderella Philately of Nigeria	35, 36	284
Gambia Cameos 1883-1897	37, 38	285
Sierra Leone Censorship	39, 40	286
Airmails to Europe 1939-1940	41, 42	287
Postal History of French West Africa, north of Niger	43, 44	288
Biafra : Early Mails	45	289
Biafra : Forces Mail	46	290
Ascension Island	47, 48	291
St Helena : The Perkins Bacon Plate 1856-1894	49, 50, 51	292
Boer Prisoner of War Mail at St Helena	52	293
West Africa Study Circle		294
Contributors		295

## Front Cover

This envelope, dated 14 January 1870 from Gambia to France, has an imperforate 6d adhesive cancelled at Bathurst in red. The accountancy mark 7 indicates the 8d per 1/4d rate was prepaid partly in cash, with 7d due to London. See pages 268-9.

# Display to The Royal Philatelic Society London

27 April 2000

This special edition of *Cameo* has been produced to act both as a set of notes for members of The Royal Philatelic Society London viewing the display and also as a record of the display for members of The West Africa Study Circle, especially those unable to attend the meeting.

The display has been put together to illustrate as many different aspects of West African philately as possible, with items from each of the countries covered by the Study Circle.



## The West Africa Study Circle 1950 to 2000

### A Brief History

In May 1950 at the Philatelic Congress in Tunbridge wells, a number of study circles were convened, one of which was for those interested in The Gambia. This meeting took place at 8.00pm on 18 May under the leadership of Mr R.E.R. Dalwick. This led to the formation of a regular study group called The Gambia Study Circle to provide a forum for the discussion of Gambian postal matters and the exchange of information. One result of this was the publication in 1953 of *The Gambia* by R.E.R. Dalwick.

In 1952 Jim Whitfield was elected President to follow Mr Dalwick and, apart from a brief period, remained in this office until 1956. The subscription in these early days was 10s, meetings were held in Manchester and London, the room hire at this time was 10s 6d for the Freemason's Club in Manchester and £1 3s 6d for the Royal in London. At the AGM on 30 October 1954 the interests of the Circle were extended and it became The Gambia, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone Study Circle. In 1956 Colin McCaig took over as President and the minutes of the AGM record a membership of 40.

A significant change took place at the AGM on 19 September 1959 when the scope of the study circle was amended to that of British West Africa. A Nigeria bulletin was circulated for the first time in 1960. Rules of the British West Africa Study Circle were adopted on 21 September 1963. Meetings continued in London and Manchester but in 1969 the London meeting moved to the Russell Hotel. Northern meetings were also held in Derby and Leeds. The Southern meeting began in 1968 at Bristol followed in 1969 at Warminster after which it moved to Salisbury where it remains to this day. 1972 saw the London meetings being held in the Royal Commonwealth Society. It was at this time that the scope of the Circle was redefined to include the former British Possessions and Territories in West Africa together with the West African Islands of St Helena and Ascension, and the British Postal Agencies on Madeira, Tenerife, St Vincent and Fernando Po.

The packet changed to a Postal Auction in 1973. The total sales of the first auction was £129.40 with five contributors and 24 members bidding. As a comparison Auction 50 had 444 lots with a reserve value of nearly £6600 with items submitted by 20 vendors. Nearly all the 67 members bidding were successful.

From the beginning communication had been maintained by informal bulletins but, by 1975 with 100 members, it was decided to issue a journal twice a year; the first being in January of that year. The chosen title was *Cameo* and the cover was designed, appropriately enough, around a facsimile of the *Cameo* issue of *The Gambia* that fitted well on the early size of the journal. Under the editorship of Jeremy Martin *Cameo* flourished and with the January 1982 issue a new format was introduced which for the first time contained

advertisements. 1995 saw the change to A4 format and the following year different illustrations appeared on each cover - an innovation of the new Editor Frank Walton. To commemorate our 25th anniversary in 1975 a special issue of *Stamp Collecting* was published which contained articles about aspects of our territories written by eminent members of the day.

A new Constitution and Rules was approved at the AGM of September 1983 which, amongst other things, amended our title to The West Africa Study Circle to reflect the position that many of the former colonies were now independent. These remained current until revised in 1999. The publication's sub-committee was inaugurated in 1983 under the chairmanship of John Sacher who guided the circle from selling studies to the forefront of philatelic publishing. This, along with auction revenue and a more commercial footing for *Cameo* production, created financial stability and raised revenue to fund future publications. 1983 saw the first St Helena supplement. This year saw the end of an era when, after guiding the Circle through no less than 15 years, Philip Beale retired as Hon Secretary.

London meetings moved to the Travellers Club in Pall Mall from September 1984. Regrettably northern meetings had ceased by the mid-1980s. The innovation of the weekend conference started in 1987 at York and continued there in 1989 and 1991. Subsequently conferences have been held at Leamington (1993, 1995) and Chester (1997, 1999) and remain very popular. 1988 saw the London meetings at The British Philatelic Centre and then in 1995 we returned to the Royal where the Circle first met in 1956.

In 1988 the Circle decided to award a medal for members who had made an exceptional contribution. These have been awarded to Philip Beale in 1989, Jeremy Martin in 1990, Jack Ince in 1992, John Sacher in 1994 and Michael Ensor in 1998.

The purpose of the Circle is the same as when it started; namely the study of postal history and stamps of the area and the subsequent publication of members' researches. The Circle has already published a wide range of studies including stamp issues, postmarks, censorship, postal history, key plates etc and more are under preparation. Membership is approaching 250 drawn from all parts of the world. The Circle meets twice each year in London, once a year in Salisbury and every second year there is the weekend conference where members can get together for displays and talks and generally exchange views. Our journal *Cameo* continues to improve and has won awards at international exhibitions. Successful postal auctions are held twice a year and there is an excellent lending library.



### Presidents of The West Africa Study Circle

1950	Richard Dalwick	1974	Jeremy Martin
1952	Jim Whitfield	1976	Michael Wright
1954	Major McConaghey	1978	Philip Beale
1955	Jim Whitfield	1980	Jack Ince
1956	Colin McCaig	1982	Neville Jones
1958	Dr H. Miller	1984	John Sacher
1960	John Cameron	1986	Dudley Prestedge
1962	Len Weldhen	1988	Charles Leonard
1964	Ken Macrae	1990	John Attwood
1966	Richard Agabeg	1992	Robert Nelson
1968	Harold MacMillan	1994	Michael Ensor
1970	John Davies	1996	Michael Roberts
1972	William Osborne	1998	Oliver Andrew

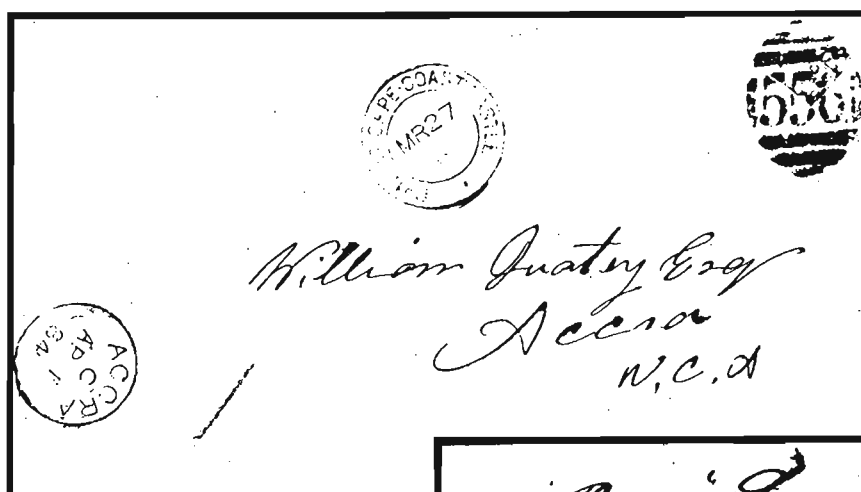
# "Stamps for the Rate are not Available"

## Frames 1, 2 & 3

In the early days of issuing adhesive postage stamps the British Post Office and the Colonial Office were distinctly reluctant to establish potentially loss-making colonial post offices in West Africa. Even when offices were opened, they, as well as that in the independent state of Liberia which operated under GPO rules, were always restricted to the minimum number of denominations. Frequently these did not pay newly introduced rates. Officials were, without adequate notice, unable to anticipate changes or simply forgot to re-order supplies. On other occasions a combination of the humid climate together with the dyestuffs and gum used caused the existing stock of stamps to stick together, rendering much of it unusable.

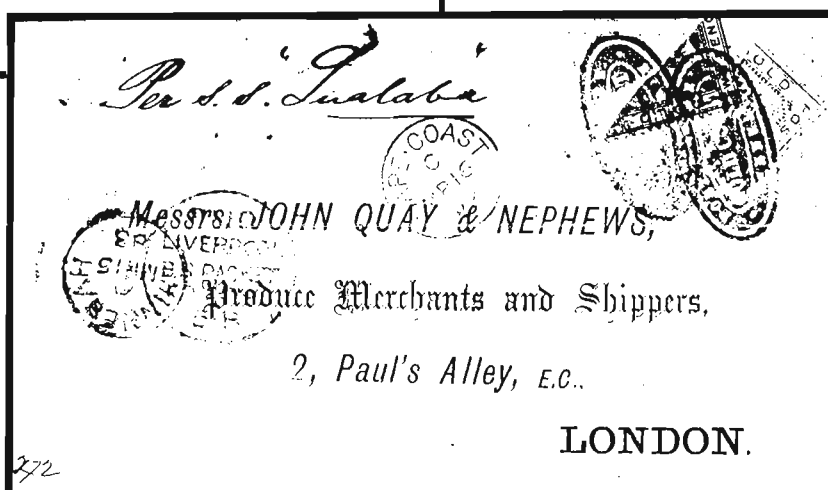
These three frames illustrate the sort of solutions resorted to in the Gambia, the Gold Coast, the Oil Rivers/ Niger Coast, the Niger Territories and Northern Nigeria, Sierra Leone, by German traders in Lagos, and in Liberia. Most of these actions were officially authorised. International usage clearly establishes that what happened was not just a local arrangement or a conspiracy to mislead collectors.

**Gambia** 8d rate to France paid with a 6d stamp and 2d in cash, and wholly in cash. July 1875 to December 1878 7½d rate, paid wholly in cash.



27 March 1884 - One sixth of 6d (SG 8b) paying 1d rate from Cape Coast to Accra .

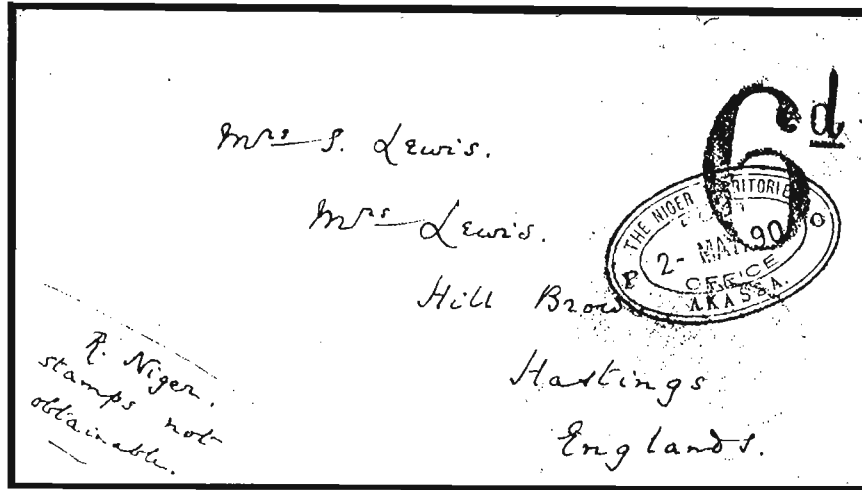
15 March 1883 - Bisected 2d and 6d stamps paying the 4d rate from Winnebah to London.



**Gold Coast** Accra and Cape Coast - 7½d rate to France and the USA paid using a bisected 1d to make up the rate. Axim - 7½d rate overpaid by ½d. 1882-89 stamp shortages - Cape Coast, Accra, Addah, Elmina and Winnebah - rates made up by use of bisects, quartering of 4d, sixth part of 6d, selvedge and temporary re-introduction of an old "PAID" handstamp, including a printed paper rate.

**Oil Rivers** Period prior to establishment of a postal service at Benin River and Brass.

**Niger Coast** 1893-94 stamp shortage - Rates made up at Bonny and Old Calabar with regular postage stamps bisected.



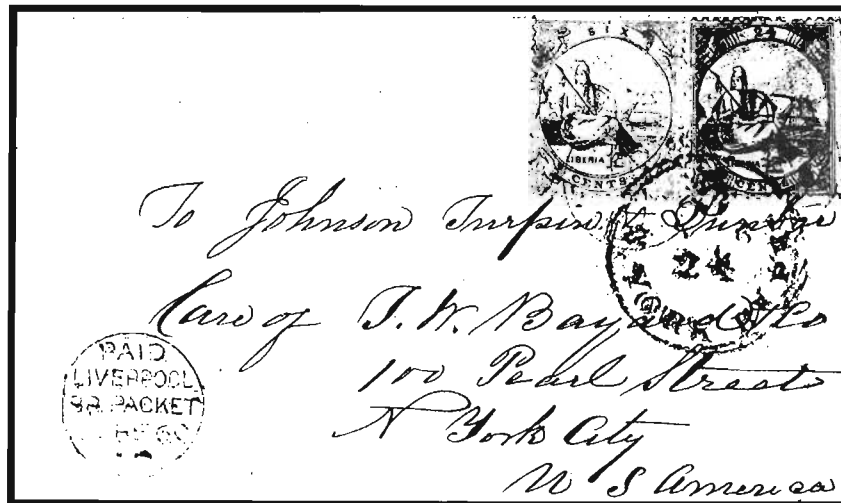
2 May 1890 - R. Niger stamps not obtainable via Akassa to Hastings, United Kingdom

**Niger Territories and Northern Nigeria**

The period prior to the use of British stamps at Akassa and Lokoja. Also the newly opened office at Jebba.

**Lagos** Use of a bisected 3pf stamp, probably by a German merchant.

**Sierra Leone** Until 1872 there were no 4d stamps to pay a 1s 4d rate to France. Even in 1875 6d stamps were not always available. Later in the 1880s unauthorised bisects were occasionally used.



24 March 1860 - Harper Liberia to New York, 33c rate paid with 30c in stamps and 3c cash

**Liberia** 1860-61 - The rate to the USA was 33c, but there were only 6c, 12c and 24c stamps available, so the balance of 3c was paid in cash, or even the whole amount paid in cash. In 1869 there were again no stamps to pay the two rates to the Netherlands via Belgium and France of 7d (14c) and 10d (20c) so these too were paid in cash.

# Sierra Leone Post-Independence

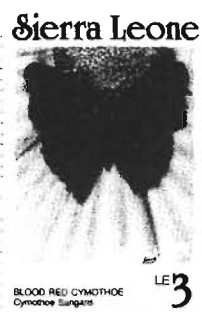
## Frames 4 & 5

In 1963, Sierra Leone issued the first Self-Adhesive postage stamps as a commemorative issue and in 1965, a first definitive issue of ten values was issued. The first sheet of this frame shows a copy of the official Post Office announcement of this issue and the next shows the set as issued. A feature of this and other issues at this time is the appearance of advertisements on the backing paper to mitigate the higher costs of production of the Self-Adhesive stamps compared with normal conventionally gummed items. This is illustrated on the next sheet, although the 7c value alone was issued in a sheet of 25 with a single large pictorial advertisement that is not shown for space reasons. The following two sheets show a part sheet of proofs of the 7c value with untrimmed matrix and a presumed colour trial of the same value. The next sheet shows a strip of three 7c with the green and gold foil embossing omitted and therefore without either value or country title. This item is curious in that the backing sheet has the advertisement on the reverse, which should indicate a production run printing as issued, but there is no imprint tab or sheet number. A normal, as issued, example is included for comparison.



The official date of issue was 17 December 1965 and there was a commemorative handstamp as shown on the next sheet. However, due to an acute shortage of low value stamps, some values were released earlier and examples are shown with datestamps of 22 November and 9 December 1965. Normal airmail usage is also covered. An interesting cover dated 4 April 1967 shows a 20c value bisected to prepay 10c postage. This item does not appear to have been officially authorised although it clearly has been accepted for postal use. Two or three others with similar bisect treatment are known, but it is believed to stem from a local misuse of the material, probably as a result of local stamp shortage of the higher values. Re-issues of these “shaped” stamps followed in 1967 and subsequent years with slightly more orthodox colours and with a broader spread of values and these are illustrated on the last two sheets. All issues had widespread usage.

The next frame covers the Definitives first issued on 4 August 1987 featuring butterflies. An attractive set of 15 values turned out to be extremely complicated, partly due to runaway inflation during its period of main use. At this period, the stamp issues of Sierra Leone were being managed by the Inter Governmental Philatelic Corporation of New York, as, indeed, they still are. The effect of this is that all philatelic supplies are distributed from New York and postal material from Freetown, Sierra Leone. The agency, is

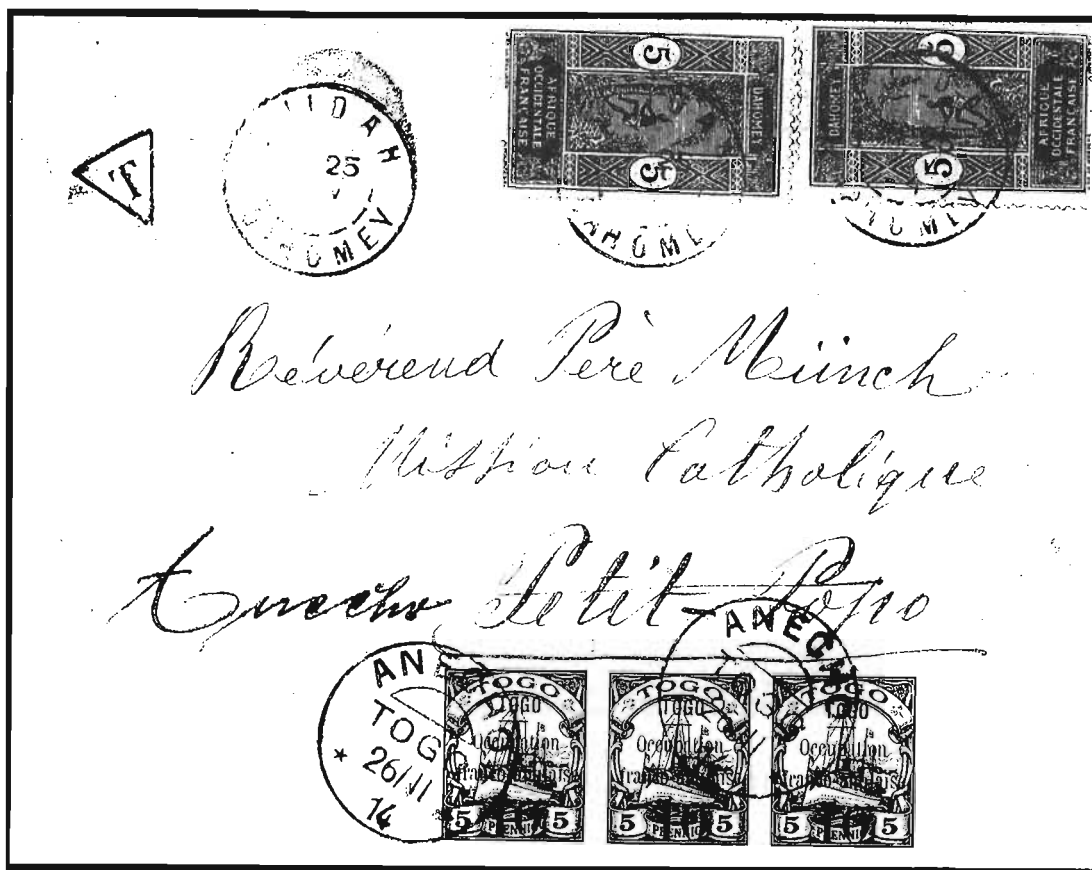


unfortunately extremely secretive and the postal authorities in Freetown rather vague, so hard information about these issues cannot be found. The first and most straightforward issue was released on 4 August 1987, perforated 14 and with no date imprint. This was followed in 1988/9 by a similar set but perf 12. These sets and postally used examples are shown on the first four sheets, as distribution followed the proper plan. In 1989, 6 values were re-issued with perf. 14 and an imprint date of 1989. These are shown with an example of postal use. However, also in 1989, the same values appeared with an experimental perforation of 12.5 x 11.5 and every sixth hole enlarged. This issue was released in New York but apparently not in Freetown and has not been seen used. A further re-issue in 1989 shows four re-valued items with 1989 imprint and perf. 14. These

are shown with an example of postal use. The same values were released in New York only with Perf. 12 or the experimental 12.5 x 11.5. These are shown but are not known postally used. The next re-issue came as a great surprise all round as it first started to appear on mail from Sierra Leone without any prior notice. In 1990, 13 values were issued with perf. 14 and 1990 imprint date but with the country title in blue instead of black (there was also some re-valuing). This issue seems to have been issued in Freetown but not in New York and decidedly uncommon in mint condition. The issue is shown mint with some used examples and some imprint blocks. A further re-issue of four values with the 1990 imprint and blue heading, but perf. 12 was released in New York but has not so far been seen postally used and it is assumed that it was not sent to Freetown. These issues were then superseded by a new design featuring birds on 1 December 1992.

# War in West Africa to 1918

## Frames 6, 7 & 8



Taxed cover from Dahomey to Petit-Popo redirected to Anecho.  
The postage due charge has been franked by three French Togo overprinted 10 stamps SG 2a.

**The Nigerias.** Seven covers comprising the Benin Expedition of 1897, Lagos Houssa Force Expedition of 1897-98, Cross River 1901, Aro Expeditionary Force, Northern Nigeria pacification campaigns, Anglo-Gennan Yola-Cross-River Border Expedition of 1907-09 and a rare 1914 German Prisoner of War letter.

**Gold Coast.** Five covers of the Ashanti Wars including the earliest known entire of 15 August 1824, two covers of the 1874 expedition, one from the 1895-96 expedition and finally from Colour Sergeant Mackenzie VC from the 1900 expedition; covers from 1914-18 showing the earliest censorship from Accra and Obuasi.

**The Northern Cameroons Column 1914-18.** Three covers from Northern Nigeria 1914 and 1916, and one cover from the French Column from Oubangui Chari Tchad of 1915.

**The Southern Cameroons Column.** Two postcards and a cover from the French Forces; one showing the earliest stamped mark of 1914, and two covers from the English Forces in 1915. A rare censored cover from the USA to an American Presbyterian Minister of 10 November 1915. From the German side a Flaggenpost letter from Jaunde of 9 September 1915 and two Prisoner of War letters from Fernando Po and Zaragoza.

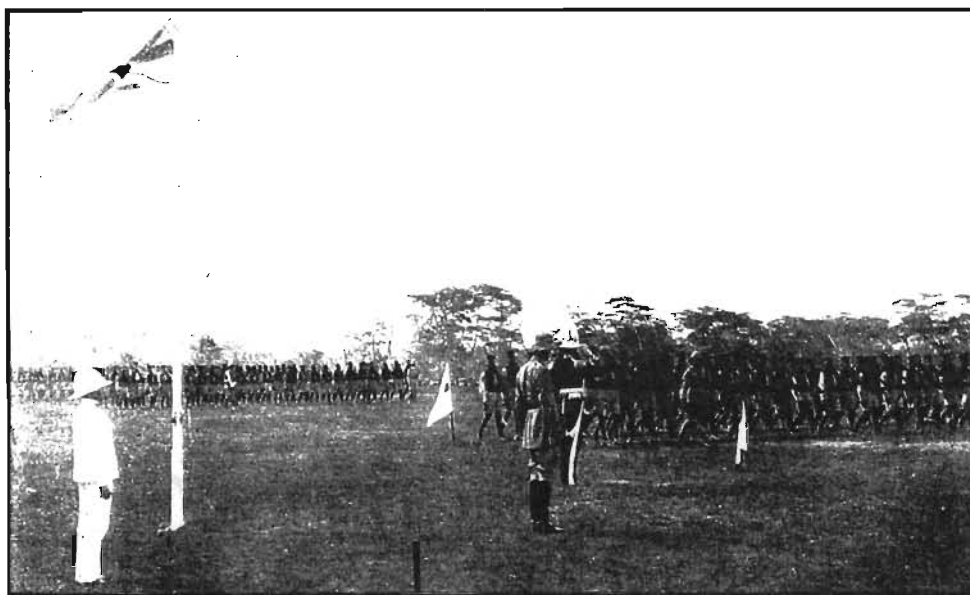
**Togo.** One postcard and one cover from the British Forces, the postcard from 2 December 1914, a cover sent on the *RMS Appam* captured by the Germans in January 1916. Three French pieces from 1914 and 1916. A German Prisoner of War cover to Holland 8 March 1916 with blue T mark.

**Sierra Leone.** A cover with a Nigerian 1d censored at Sierra Leone on 30 June 1918, a late date.

**Gambia.** A cover addressed to the Governor and C-in-C of the Gambia of 11 November 1915 bearing a pair of the ½d CEF overprints cancelled at Duala SG.B2.

# The Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1922

## Frames 9 & 10



The review at Coomasie January 1914

From the time Togo became a German Protectorate in 1884 there was never a need for a military presence, limited to 800 troops and armed police supported by 300 Europeans with some military training but insufficient to defend 36,000 square miles and one million people.

In January 1914 The Gold Coast Regiment was reviewed at Coomasie by Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of the Gold Coast. He invited Adolf Friederich von Mecklenburg, Governor of Togo to witness this event. Von Mecklenburg was sufficiently impressed to suggest, when war became a distinct possibility in August 1914, that Togo and The Gold Coast should distance themselves from the events in Europe and remain neutral.

The British rejected the proposal. They, unlike the French in Dahomey, knew the world's most powerful radio transmitter at Kamina went live in June 1914. It was able to transmit direct to Berlin and to German stations in Liberia, Cameroon, German East and South West Africa and German shipping in the Atlantic; it was a pivotal point. Understandably the British Admiralty nominated Kamina as their priority target in the event of war. A German offer to surrender southern Togo, but retain the area 100 miles north of Lome including Kamina, was understandably refused. With war declared 5 August 1914, the Germans declined an opportunity to surrender the next day and evacuated Lome which fell to the British on 8 August; French troops from Dahomey had captured Anecho the previous day. After a fierce but short campaign the Germans surrendered at Kamina on 28 August 1914; they destroyed the transmitter.

This display of early mail from the Occupation includes examples of German Postal stationery and stamps, the latter unearthed at Kamina, overprinted by British and French.

# Nigeria : George V Imperium Key Plates

## Frames 11 & 12

As reported by Peter Fernbank in *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage and Revenue Design*, Nigeria was a major user of these plates, using twenty three of the twenty five 120-set plates employed in the series.

**Frame 11** shows examples from the 1914-26 die I issue with multiple crown CA watermark. Die proofs of the value for ½d, 1d, 2d and 4d exist.

Sheet 1 shows the ½d and 4d value.  
Sheet 2 specimen overprints on the white-back set from ½d - £1.  
Sheet 3 specimen overprints on coloured paper values 3d - 10s  
Sheets 4 - 12 examples of various plate numbers used including shades for the 4d and 10s values, as follows:-

½d Plate 2 (as illustrated in Peter Fernbank's book)  
1d Plates 1 and 2  
3d Plates 1 and 8  
4d Plate 8  
10s Plates 1 and 8  
£1 Plate 1

**Frame 12** shows examples of the 1921-32 dies I and II series with multiple script C.A. watermark.

Sheet 1 specimen overprints on ½d - 10s set  
Sheets 2 - 12 further examples of various plate numbers used:-

½d Plates 7 and 9  
½d Plates 7 and 12 combined. Includes examples of interpanneau block and pair showing die I at the top and die II at the bottom  
1d Plates 7 and 9  
1d Plates 7 and 12 combined (as for ½d values), with interpanneau block and pair  
4d Plate 16 showing constant flaw below 'Nigeria' on last stamp of sheet  
1s Plate 16 showing constant flaw  
1s Plate 21 showing two paper shades  
10s Plate 11  
£1 Plate 17



## Early Gambia

### Frames 13 & 14

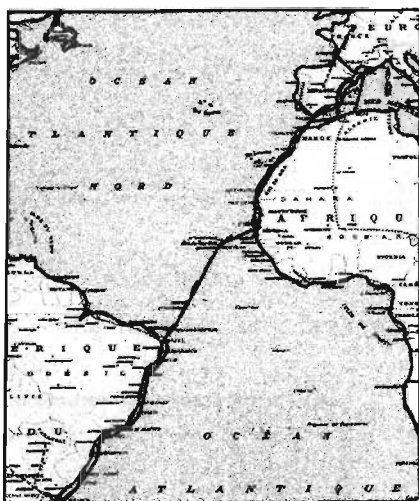
A selection of material from The Gambia

# Development of Air Routes to South America via West Africa

## Frames 15 & 16

With the end of the first world war, both the victors and the vanquished found themselves with surplus war material including these 'new machines' called airplanes and airships. The airships were capable of long distance travel with passengers but expensive whereas the airplanes were only capable of short distance travel which was not conducive to securing contracts for carrying mail commercially over the oceans of the world, therefore the airmail service between Europe and South America was initially routed via the shortest sea crossing. This display seeks to illustrate the several combinations of routes and transport technologies which were deployed, firstly on an experimental basis and then in regular service, in the attempts by competing nations with air transport companies to capture the traffic on the route.

The French Route



Toulouse-Casablanca-Dakar/St. Louis (West Africa)  
then by sea to Natal (Brazil) -Rio (Argentina)

The German Route



Berlin-Las Palmas-Bathurst (West Africa)  
SS Westfalen (Catapult ship) -Natal (Brazil)

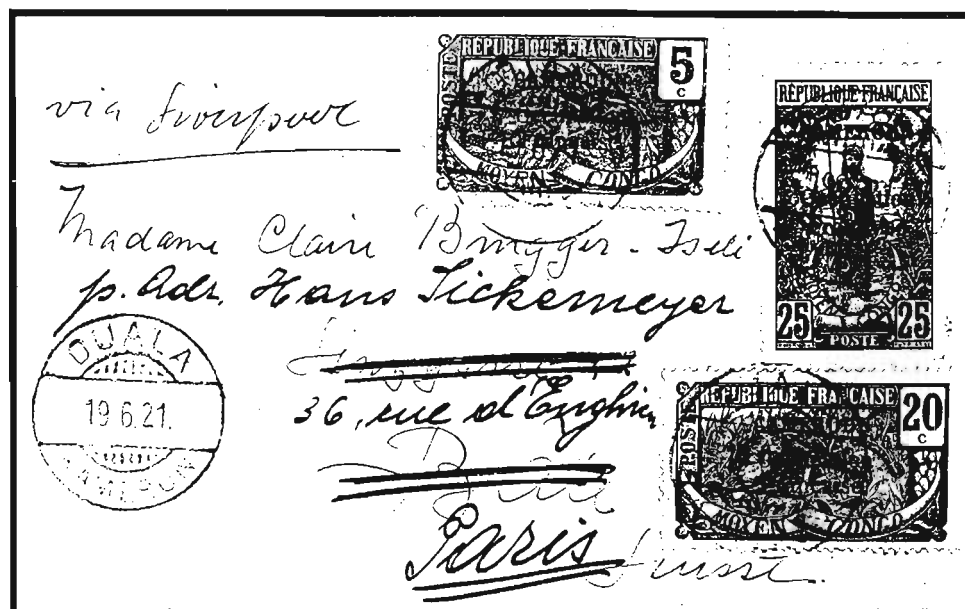
A French airline was the first to survey the route towards a staging point on the West African coast. Contemporaneously, it secured contracts on the South American end of the service and linked the two by fast surface vessels in 1928. After a disastrous trans-atlantic flight, the French sought to replace the surface vessels, firstly with flying boats and then with land-based planes, providing regular all-up air services across the Atlantic by the end of 1934.

A German company not only experimented with fast surface vessels but also flying boats and, after reconnaissance, began to use floating stop over bases, catapult ships, in the South Atlantic. The airship was also introduced experimentally. However, floating bases were adopted for the first regular services, early in 1934 with its ocean route close to that of the French in West Africa.

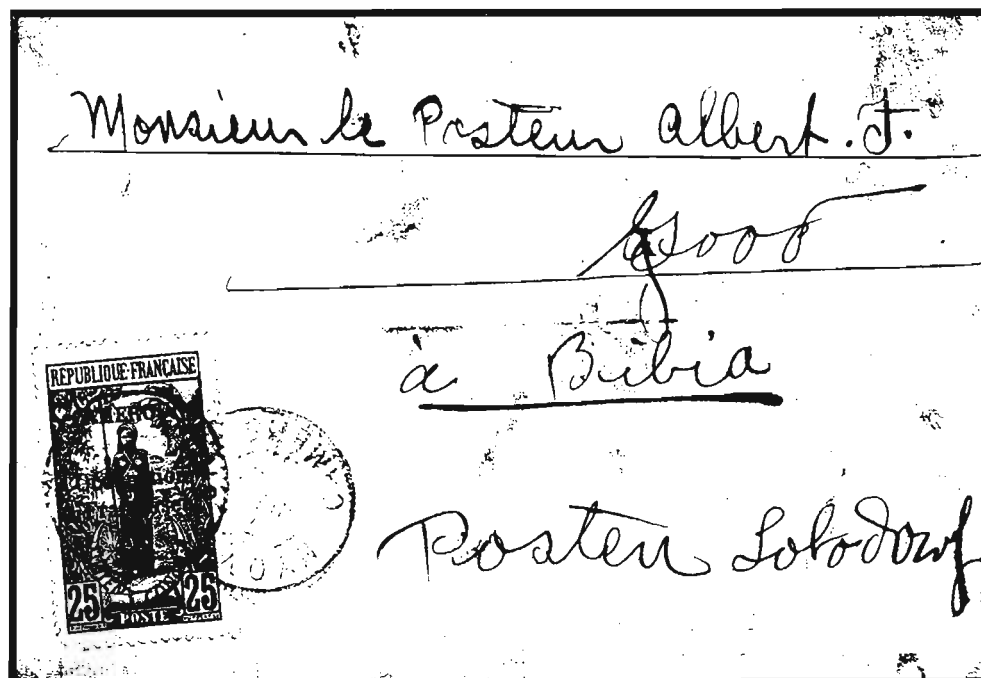
In 1935, Air France and Lufthansa concluded an agreement for the provision of a biweekly air service between Europe and South America. Mail from external countries required to be annotated *By French Airmail* or *By German Airmail*. This combined service lasted until the outbreak of World War II with Germany in 1939 with France continuing on its own until the country was overthrown in June 1940.

# French Equatorial Africa : Cameroun

## Frame 17



Mail to Switzerland, re-directed to France. Basic French foreign rate applies of 50c per 20g. This rate was effective from 1 April 1921 until 31 August 1924. This cover was routed via Liverpool.



Internal mail, where the domestic French rate of 25c for 20g applies. This basic rate was effective from 1 April 1920 to 15 July 1925. This cover was posted at Nyombe and routed through Loldorf to Bibia.

# Gold Coast Civil Censorship During World War II

## Frames 18 & 19



2 September 1941 - Censor number 10 used on a letter written in the French language

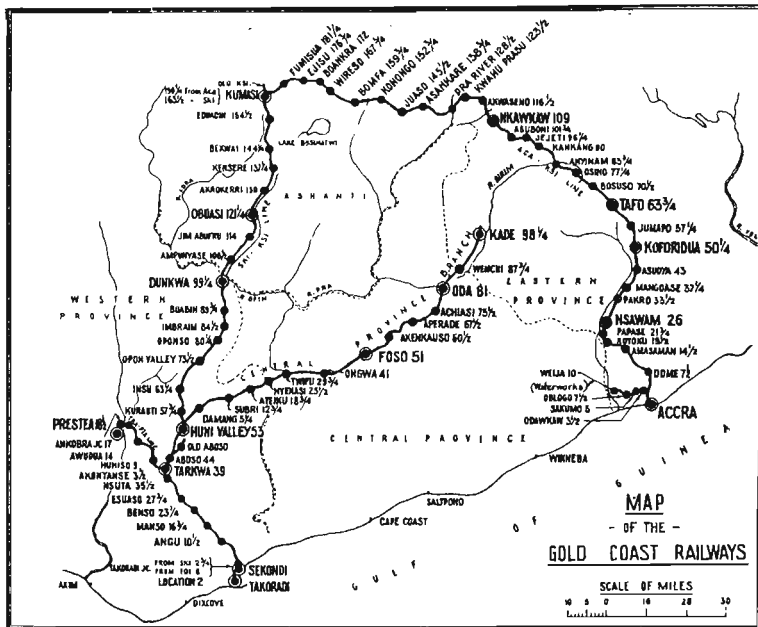
A wide variety of cachets and tapes were used in the Gold Coast by the censors of civilian mail. The best known of the handstamps (Type 1) is a hexagon containing PASSED BY CENSOR / <number> / GOLD COAST. Numbers from 1 to 30 were issued, and of these 19 different numbers have now been recorded used on postal items. There are three sub-types. Dates between 28 August 1939 and 23 December 1942 have been recorded. Number 12 was in use in late 1941 as a military censorship cachet by the RAF at Takoradi. Number 10 appears to have been used exclusively on correspondence written in French or German or on mail to or from France, Germany and other Western European countries or their Colonies. Number 9 is often seen on transit mail from Togo.

Three different types of tape reading GOLD COAST / OPENED BY CENSOR or GOLD COAST / OPENED BY EXAMINER on yellow or red paper were used for resealing covers actually opened and were in use between September 1939 and September 1942. The code OO was allocated to the Gold Coast under the Imperial Censorship Coding Scheme. Two cachets have been recorded. The rectangular Type 2 is known in use from April 1942 to December 1942 with numbers 1, 2 and 3 recorded. Type 3 is a scarce octagonal marking known only with number 1 in use from July 1944 to June 1945.

From 1942 until the end of the War tapes using the OO code replaced the cachets hitherto in use. All of these have the ubiquitous P.C. 90 imprint with four distinct types with codes OO/31 - OO/43 (12 numbers recorded between November 1942 and January 1945), OO/232 - OO/239 (7 numbers, June 1944 to February 1945), OO/332 - OO/343 (7 numbers, October 1944 to November 1945) and OO/532 - OO/543 (6 numbers during April and May 1945). Additionally a type with a handstamped number was introduced in late 1942 with eight numbers between OO/5 and OO/19 recorded from 2 November 1942 to 20 January 1943.

# Gold Coast Government Railway and its TPOs

## Frames 20 & 21



The Gold Coast Railway can be divided into three lines, that is Western, Eastern and Central.

**Western Line:** Development of trade in the 1890s created problems of transportation which led to a call for a railway. The coastal point chosen was Sekondi which was adjacent to the gold mines at Tarkwa and Abooso. Work started in August 1898 and finally the line reached Kumasi in October 1903. The opening of the railway enabled the journey to the coast, which had taken 10 to 14 days, to be completed in a day. Mail was carried from the beginning although the TPO was not put into service until 1 July 1914.

**Eastern Line:** Although construction began in January 1909, the complete section was not opened for traffic until September 1923. The TPO was introduced on 3 September 1923.

**Central Line:** The Central Province Branch was completed in December 1927. This was to open up the cocoa and mahogany areas. The TPO opened for business on 12 April 1926. On 1 February 1956 a 51 mile cut offline was opened between the Central Province line at Achiasi and the Accra - Kumasi line at Kotoku, shortening the journey between Accra and Takoradi by 167 miles.

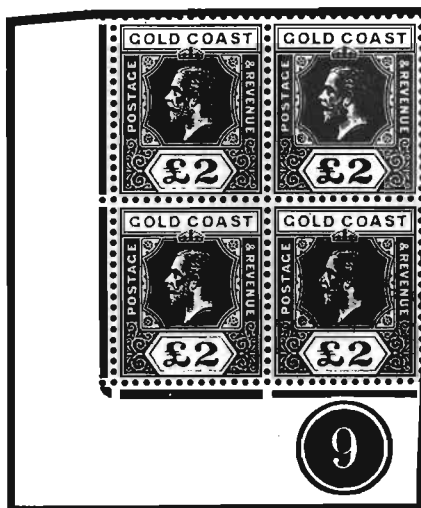
TPOs were deployed on the three main lines and for a period on the Tarkwa - Prestea branch line. In addition to collecting the mail from agencies along the route they enabled the public at all stations to post their correspondence up to the time the train leaves on payment of an additional fee. Late fee boxes were attached to the trains, and the TPO staff could accept ordinary and registered correspondence from the public and a large amount of sorting work was done on the train. The late fees payable were 2d for delivery in the Gold Coast, 3d for abroad and 6d on all registered articles and there are examples in the display, where TPO handstamps cancel the adhesives. Correspondence posted on the TPO without the prescribed Late Fee and postage was surcharged with actual amount of the Late Fee and not double and this was indicated by a boxed rubber handstamp POSTED ON TRAIN / WITHOUT EXTRA FEE / d. TO PAY. On occasions covers obviously posted on the TPO have avoided the extra charge.

Registered items posted on the TPO often bear a manuscript endorsement eg R TPO 128 (Imperial Airways to Switzerland) or occasionally a TPO registration label as shown on the cover to Manchester reading ACCRA / TPO DOWN - altered to UP in manuscript - the rate of 4s 6d being made up of 3 x 1s 3d 1/2oz rate by Acromaritime, 3d registration and 6d late fee. The Central Line TPO is noteworthy for having the only registration handstamp, a standard oval reading REGISTERED / CENTRAL TPO No. 2.

Six locations on the railway system are recorded with datestamps carrying the letters GCGR at the top including Boankra in the display. Their intended use was probably non-postal but they were used to cancel mail from engineers camps during the building of major stations and left to be used by the Postal Agent until the normal datestamp was issued.

# Gold Coast : George V Imperium Key Plates

## Frames 22, 23 & 24



£2 printed from Plate 9; only 500 sheets were printed, all on 1 March 1921  
This was the final Gold Coast printing from Die I

During the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, the definitive issues were printed primarily from key plates numbered 1, 2 and 3.

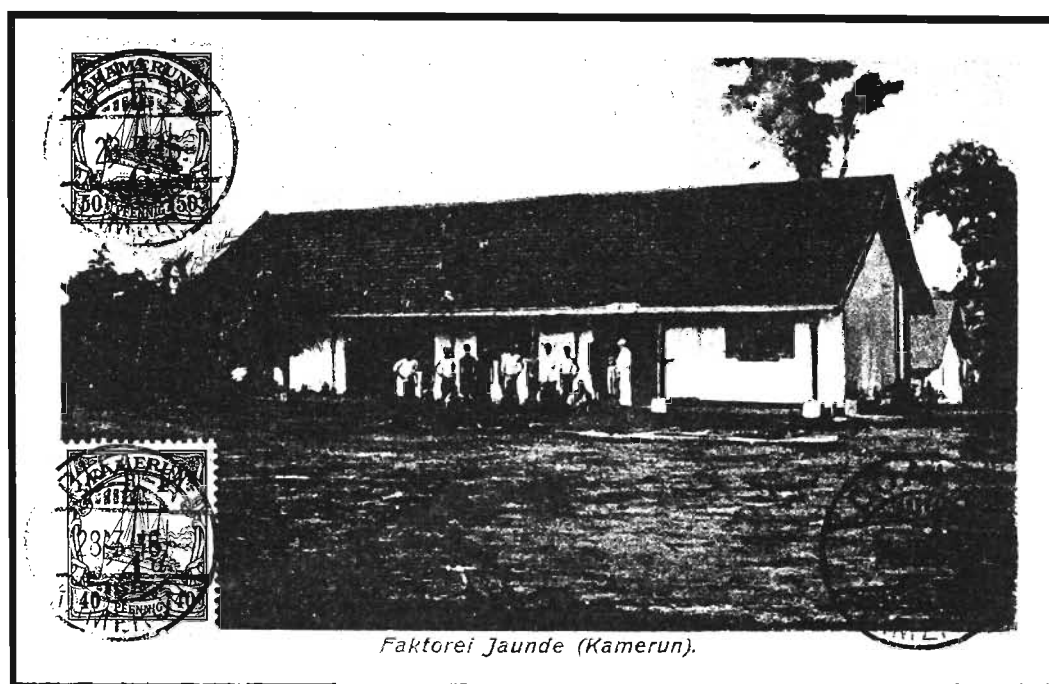
However, as the volumes demanded of the printers throughout the Empire grew an increasing number of plates were brought in to use. Plate 1 was again seen for several earlier issues of George V although numbers 2 and 3 did not re-appear for this colony. Plates 5, 6 and 7 were prevalent in printings of the 1913-1921 issue while plates 10, 11 and 16 were common in the second George V set from 1921-1924.

Detailed studies have been made, most recently the excellent study published by Peter Fernbank on the George V key plates of the Commonwealth and the Study Circle's own Gold Coast book, which pinpoint the dates of introduction of each numbered plate.

One example of how this dating may be corroborated in this display may be achieved by comparing the appearance of plate 9. The SG82c 5s variety was only printed during 1921, while SG100 15s die I and SG102 £2 were issued in March 1921.

# The Cameroons : Partition and Re-unification

## Frames 25 & 26



German postcard, used philatelically with 4d and 6d values of the Cameroons Expeditionary Force stamps on 28 March 1916, the last known date of the British-run CEF post office at Duala, using a captured German canceller.

From 1884 to 1914 Kamerun was controlled by Germany. At the start of the First World War Britain and France raised a force of mainly West African troops commanded by General Dobell. The main port, Duala, was quickly captured and a naval blockade established, but German resistance inland was not completely quelled until the town of Mora was surrendered in February 1916. During all this time the postal service was military, controlled by the Cameroons Expeditionary Force, in practice the British forces at Duala. The stamps and postal history of this period are interesting and well researched, especially by Bob Maddocks.

From 1 April 1916 the former colony was unequally partitioned between Britain and France, an arrangement that was subsequently ratified by the League of Nations in 1923 by mandating those countries to administer the territory on its behalf. In practice the French administered Cameroun as part of metropolitan France, in much the same way as its full overseas territories whilst the British created a new province of Nigeria in the south of their mandated territory and incorporated the northern sectors into adjoining provinces of Nigeria. Following a complaint by the League of Nations in 1929, Britain was required to re-emphasise the separate status of the British Cameroons, but even then Nigerian stamps continued in use, postmarked from 1930 by cancellations which set out the Mandated status. The philately of the French Cameroun in this period is comparatively neglected and can be very challenging; especially to Free French issues of World War II.

In the late 1950s imperial control was in decline and both Nigeria and Cameroun were prepared for independence. The British Cameroons was now an anachronism; not big enough to become a nation state and not legally part of Nigeria. This remained unresolved when Nigeria became independent on 1 October 1960, so a temporary stamp issue was created by overprinting the obsolete Nigerian definitive set. A plebiscite was organised to vote for unification with either Nigeria or Cameroun, the result of which was to merge the sparsely populated north into Nigeria, whilst the south was re-unified with the rest of the Republic of Cameroun. The re-unification created one further problem in that the former British territory needed a currency conversion from Sterling to CFA francs. A provisional Sterling currency stamp issue was created by surcharging various stamps of the French Cameroun.

# Sierra Leone Sixpence Stamp of 1859 to 1895

## Frames 27 & 28



'Dot after Six' variety from Stamp 3 Row 4 of Pane 12  
Known on all printings apart from the first

The first postage stamp of Sierra Leone was produced by De La Rue in London, using a head engraved by Joubert de la Ferté. Although this general head was used by many colonies only a few, including Malta and Hong Kong, used the same diadem.

At the time of its initial production in 1859 the half-ounce letter rate to the United Kingdom was 6d. As there was no internal mail service within Sierra Leone at this time, no other values were required. This situation prevailed until 1872 when the United Kingdom rate was reduced to 4d, and an inland service was provided at 1d. New stamps were provided for these rates, but the first 6d was still heavily used for the registered letter rate to the United Kingdom.

The authorities in Sierra Leone were reluctant to purchase a new die for a 6d stamp to match the other values; this did finally happen in 1897 when De La Rue declared the original plate unusable after being in regular use for well over 30 years.

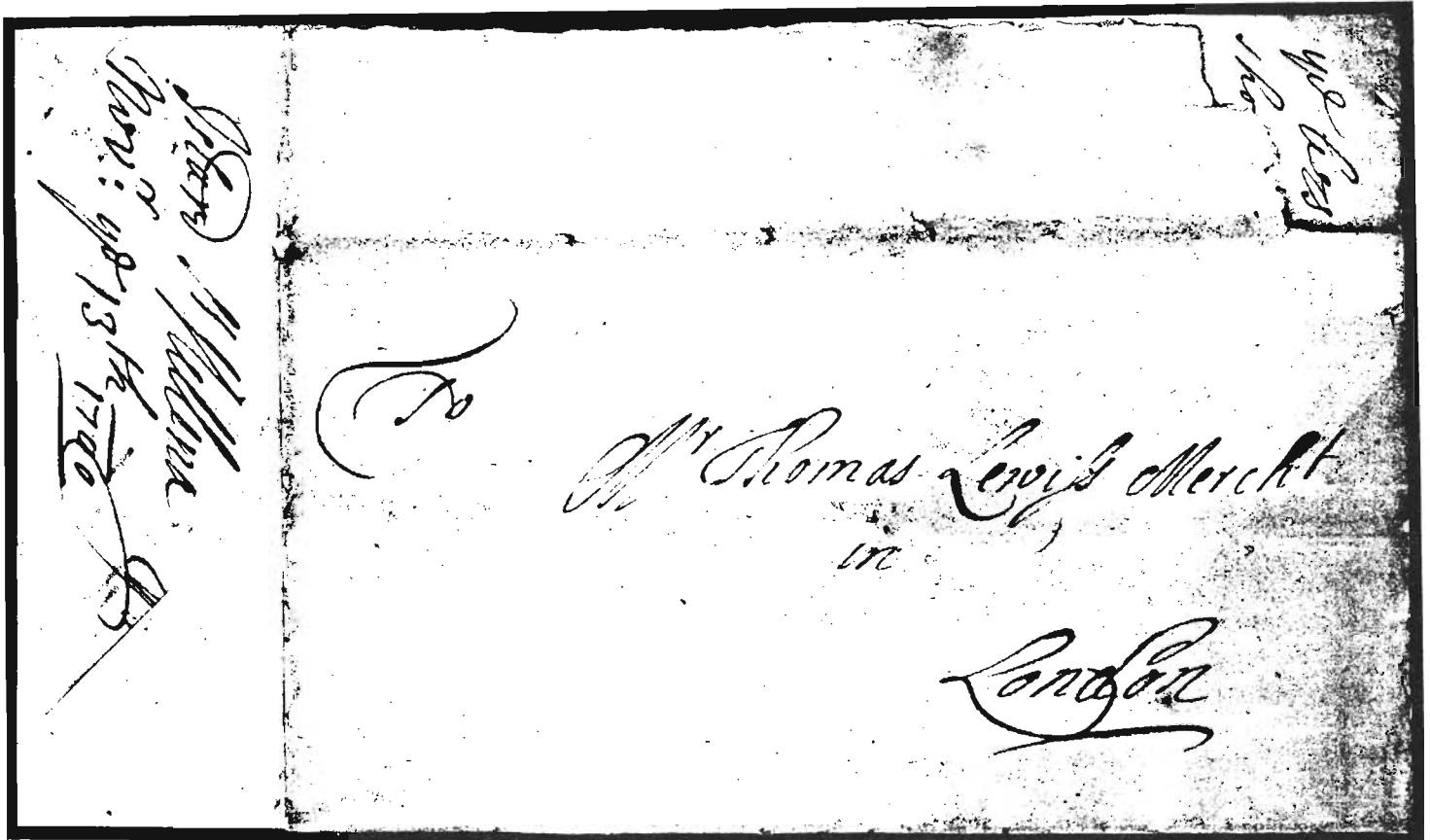
This study covers all postage or revenue printings from the plate, including forgeries.

## Summary of Printings

Printing	Despatch Date	Shade	Perforation	Watermark
1	Jun 1859	Dull Purple	14	None
2	Aug 1865	Grey Lilac	14	None
3	Nov 1871	Purple	12½	None
4	May 1873	Purple	12½	None
5	Feb 1874	Violet	14	None
6	Mar 1875	Violet	14	None
7	Jul 1876	Violet	14	None
8	Nov 1878	Violet	14	Crown CC
9	Sep 1889	Brown Purple	14	Crown CC
10	Jul 1895	Purple Lake	14	Crown CC
Revenue	Aug 1884	Violet	14	Crown CC

# St Helena

## Frames 29 & 30



Early letter from the island endorsed *Island St Hellena, Novr. Ye 13<sup>th</sup> 1700*

The island of St Helena has always appeared as a sparkling gem set near the centre of the south Atlantic ocean. Certainly to the many sailing vessels plying their return trade from India and the Far East this rocky outcrop with its rewards of fresh water, vegetables and meat must have been welcomed by their crews.

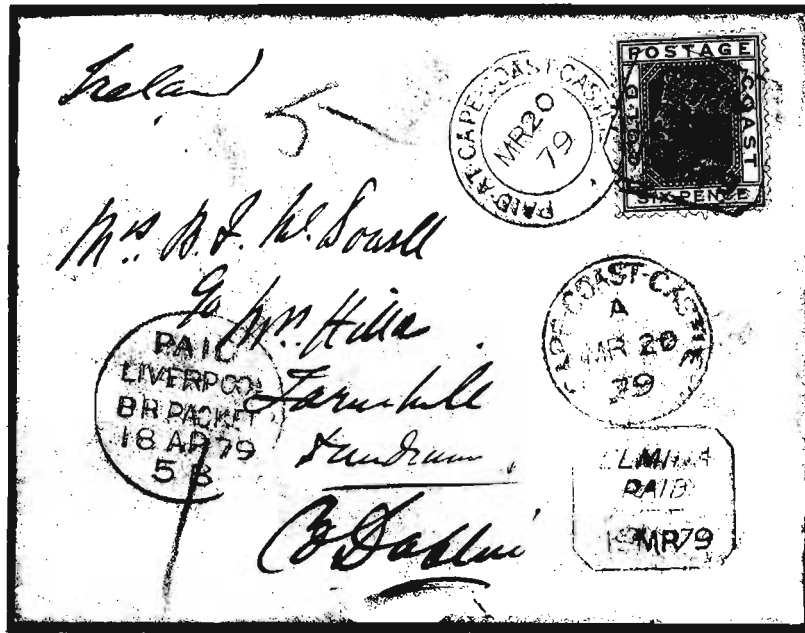
Discovered by the Portuguese Commodore Joao da Nova on 21 May 1502, the anniversary of the birthday of Helena the mother of Constantine the Great, it has retained the name St Helena ever since. This Portuguese island lost its 86 year secret in 1588 when the British arrived as Capt. Thomas Cavendish anchored *HMS Desire* in the bay. It was occupied from 1657 when the English East India Company were granted a Charter by Cromwell; they were to remain rulers, other than the Napoleonic years of 1815-21 then under military control, until 22 April 1834 when it was transferred back to His Majesty's Government.

The display in these two frames starts by showing the position and outline of the island; then early East India Company mail commencing with a 1700 letter from George Carne, a subscriber to the Company. Napoleon, exiled in 1816 was to die there in 1821. This period is represented by a letter of 1817 in Napoleon's own hand to Admiral Sir George Cockburn. An important postal history period was the Forwarding Agent mail endorsed by Saul Solomon. Representative postmarks from 1842 to 1867 follow.

Finally examples of the Soldiers' 1d rate lead into the period when the Zulu chief Dinizulu was held on St Helena from 1890 to 1897.

# Cancellations of the Gold Coast 1875-1901

## Frames 31 & 32



19 March 1879 - Elmina, Gold Coast to Ireland

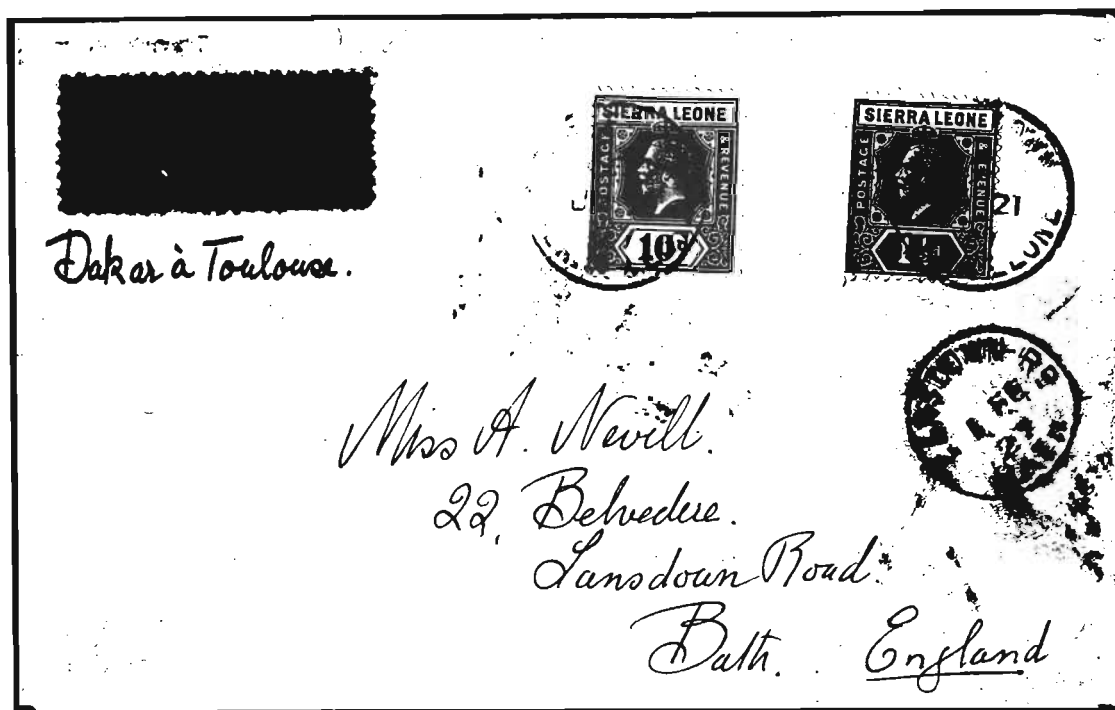
The Gold Coast used two main types of cancellers. One was a 'killer' with a number or solid bars. The second was a single-circle datestamp without GOLD COAST (Type 2) or with GOLD COAST (Type 5). The datestamps can be found in blue, green, or red, as well as black.

Some unusual cancels can also be found. Kumasi used as double-circle date-stamp as well as a single-circle one. In the late 1890s Accra used a rectangular cancel with thick bars. Mail-bag seals were also used occasionally, eg at Addah. For a short time a boxed mark with ELMINA PAID cancelled the stamp.

Finally, note the unusual large circular mark QUITTAH / PAID / date / GOLD COAST in blue on an 1877 cover to Liverpool.

# Sierra Leone Early Airmails

Frames 33 & 34



21 January 1927 - Airmail letter from Freetown to Bath, England via Dakar to Toulouse  
From 16 December 1926 the half-ounce airmail rate was 10d plus ordinary postage of 1½d

The display covers the period from the establishment of the first air mail service in 1926 up until the end of the Second World War. It starts with examples of mail flown via both the Dakar - Toulouse and Bathurst - Stuttgart routes and illustrates some of the problems encountered. It then moves on to the first 'all air' service in 1938 and the problems caused by the outbreak of the Second World War. Initially mail was sent via the French Aeromaritime service but, following the fall of France in June 1940, civilian air mail services were suspended until 1943.

Several examples of mail carried by the Pan-American FAM 22 South Atlantic service are included. One of the features of these is the high rates of postage charged. The display concludes with a cover from a 1943 crash and a postcard sent from Sierra Leone to France shortly after the liberation that has been sent via Dakar and Douala.

# The Cinderella Philately of Nigeria

## Frames 35 & 36

### Revenue and similar stamps

There are not many of these from Nigeria. The Niger Coast Protectorate had postage stamps overprinted for Consular use; these are cancelled in Old Calabar. Nigeria issued a set of revenues in 1916, but they were not in use for long. The Eastern Region introduced an income tax for which at first overprints were made on surplus postage stamps and then definitive series of lithographed and of recess stamps. Also shown is an airport tax stamp and a savings stamp on cover successfully used as a postage stamp.

### School Specimens

Two different styles on the 1973 issue.

### Postal forgeries

The first of these detected was on the 1965 2/6 stamp, followed by imitations of the 10k. stamp of the 1973 set, and of the 50k. of the 1986 set. These were lithographed; later forgeries are by photocopier, several of these were for the despatch of the fraud letters for which Nigeria is currently notorious. So far the perforation has always been wrong (and often very poor) – apart from this the quality is occasionally quite good.

### Meter stamps

These were introduced in 1950; the most long-lasting general design has two palm-trees to left and right (although an adaptation of the basic GB design was also used). Apart from variations for various makes and types of machines, others were caused by the changes to a republic and to a decimal currency.

### Reply Coupons

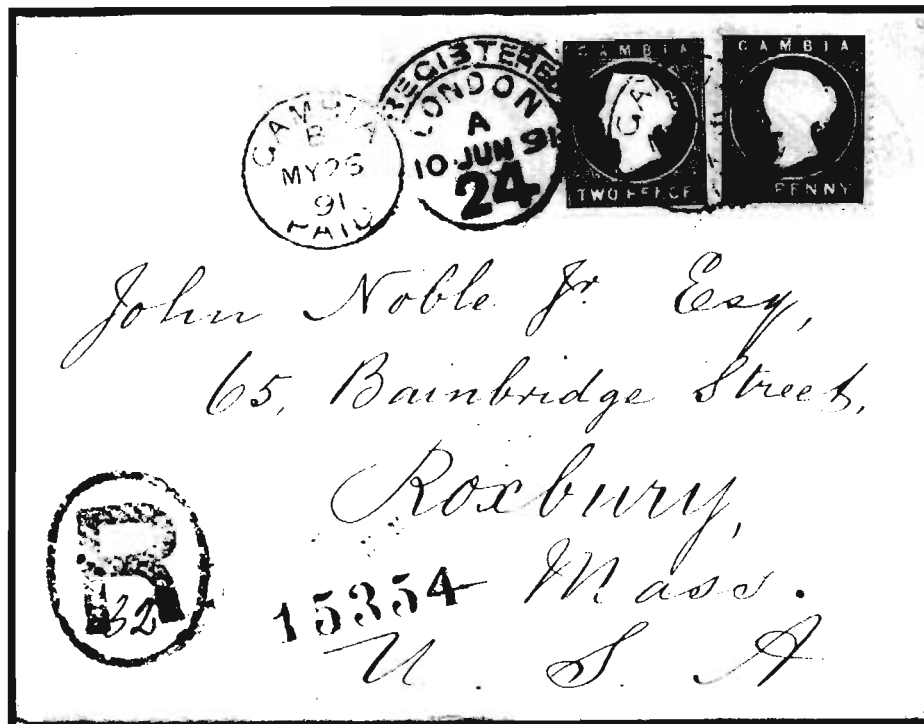
Southern Nigeria issued an International Reply Coupon in 1912. Northern Nigeria was not a member of the UPU and Nigeria did not join 1929; it then began to issue international Coupons. It also issued Imperial (later Commonwealth) Reply coupons from their introduction in 1927.

### Postal Orders

British Postal Orders were available; these were overprinted when the poundage was locally higher. Nigerian Postal Orders (valid only internally) were later introduced; there have been three main series.

# Gambia Cameos 1883 - 1897

## Frames 37 & 38



25 May 1891 - Gambia to the USA at the single registered rate (2½d postage plus 2d registration fee)  
The 2½d rate applied only to mail for the UK at this date.

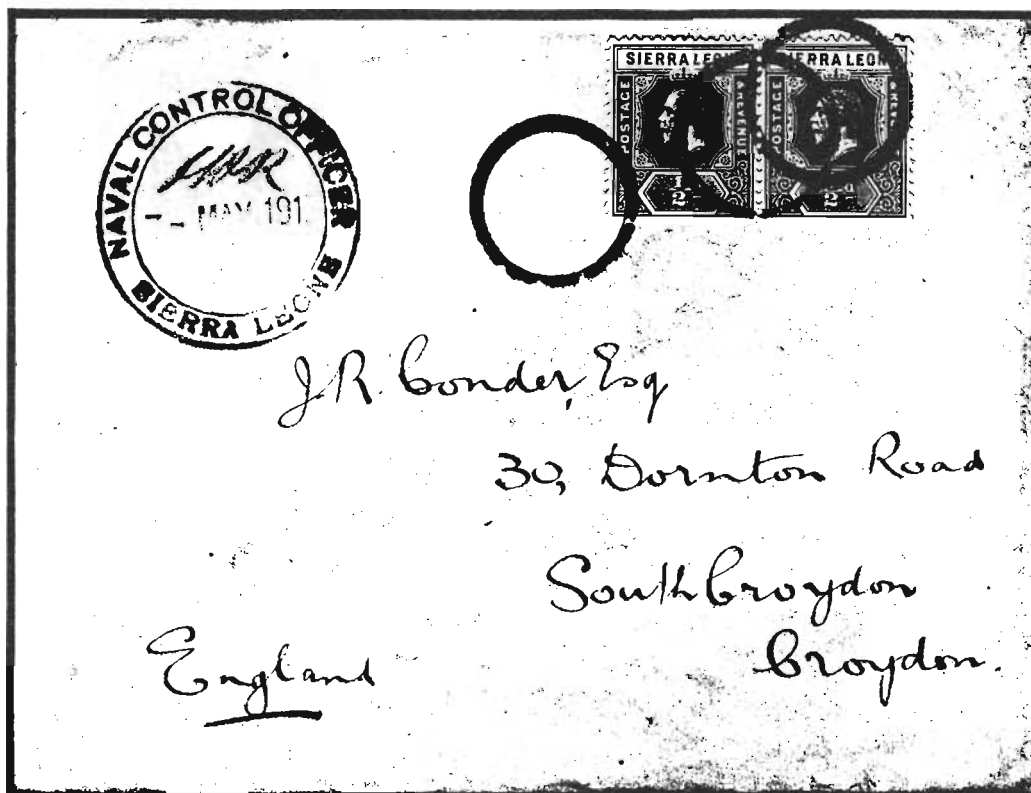
The fourth, and last, series of the Cameo design was heralded by the 3d value on 27 August 1883 in a new colour, grey. This change was the direct result of complaints by the Colony that it was very difficult to differentiate between the 3d and 6d blue of the 1880 issue. De La Rue also suggested a new colour scheme that included the ½d, 1d and 2½d in the standard colours recommended by the UPU. The 2½d was a new value for Gambia and was first invoiced on 31 December 1885. Two different comb machines were used to perforate this series, the first being as used for the 1880 issue and distinguished by the line of extra holes in the right hand sheet margin. Both machines were a standard 14 gauge. The watermark throughout this series was normally sideways and twelve of the small panes were obtained from each complete sheet of the CA paper.

The progressive deterioration of the 6d plate was responsible for the well-known 'sloping label' varieties. De La Rue produced a new plate, which was invoiced in May 1890, but it was used for only one printing.

The last of the Cameo issues were withdrawn from sale at the beginning of 1898 but, as several months notice was given, dealers had ample time in which to purchase stocks.

# Sierra Leone Censorship

Frames 39 & 40



May 1917 - Naval Control Officer censorship

The colony has a wide range of both civil and military censor handstamps and labels used during the two world wars. Apart from internal mail, Australian censorship was applied when the *Marathon* arrived at Freetown while in transit to Britain between 21 - 23 December 1916. Prisoner of War censor handstamps were applied externally to mail sent to German prisoners taken in Togo and Cameroons while they were held in Sierra Leone.

The first example recorded of censorship is shown on a registered envelope dated 14 August 1914. The handstamp Opened by Censor is shown on a postcard dated 16 October 1914. It was censored because the handwriting was in German and its use is so inappropriate on a postcard that it was evidently the only handstamp available.

Of interest is a handstruck mark S de B Lockyer, one of two examples known. The London arrival date is 2 January 1915. Unusual naval handstamps of interest are the circular Naval Control Officer used with dumb circular marks, dated on arrival in England 3 May 1918, and the boxed Passed by PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR used on 9 June 1940. The civil censor Type 6 mark is one of two examples recorded by the Study Circle. An interesting example of mail in 1944 is the envelope from Field Post Office 537 censored in the Cameroons and the Belgian Congo.

# Airmails to Europe 1939-1940

Frames 41 & 42



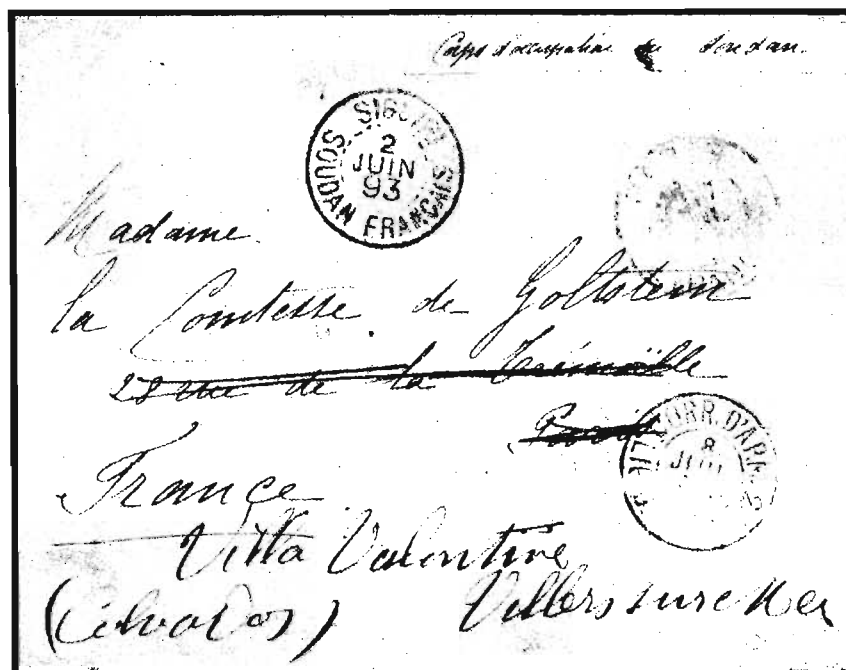
7 October 1939 - Airmail letter from Freetown to Liverpool, England  
1s airmail postage plus 3d registration; the 1s rate was in effect until 20 October 1939

In August 1939 British West Africa had three airmail services to Europe: Deutsch Lufthansa from Bathurst; Air France from Dakar with its coastal feeder service Aéromaritime which called at Accra; and Imperial Airways from Takoradi, Accra, Lagos and Kano.

At the end of August, the DLH service was suspended, but replaced by Aéromaritime calling at Freetown; in June 1940 the BOAC service was suspended, although services south and east of the Mediterranean were later resumed, and Aéromaritime suspended all calls in British territories. For the next eighteen months there was no regular civil airmail service home.

# Postal History of French West Africa, north of the Niger

## Frames 43 & 44



2 June 1893 - Siguiri to France, sent under franchise *Corps d'Occupation du Soudan*

This display aims to give a small glimpse of the postal history of part of the French Colonies which made up the Federation known as French West Africa, with an emphasis on those countries north of the Niger river. The period covered is from the 1880s until the end of World War II.

The Colonies contained in French West Africa consisted of (at 1945) Mauritania, French Sudan, Niger, Senegal, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Togo and Dahomey. The Colony of Upper Volta was created and dismembered during this period.

A study of this area is complicated by the changes in boundary during their history.

It is a story of exploration and ambition of Empire with the penetration of the interior as the main goal with the main base from the beginning being Senegal. As French troops pushed deeper into the interior, often against strong and long-lasting opposition, railway lines were needed to supply the interior and, when it was settled, to export commodities. Because of seasonal floods and droughts, rapids and shoals the main rivers were not wholly navigable; this included the Niger.

In the mid-1920s the first airmail services started from Toulouse to Dakar and eventually across to South America. This covered some coastal areas but did not greatly assist the interior and mail continued to be sent down by rail, river, vehicle or porter to the traditional ports at Dakar, Conakry, Lome, Abidjan and Cotonou which developed airports or seaplane bases. The interior of Sudan and Niger had to wait until the mid-1930s before an air service started from Marseille to Gao (Niger) with branch lines to Cotonou and Dakar.

The Second World War halted the development of airmail services and the main route was cancelled at the time of the Franco-German armistice. French West Africa was initially pro-Vichy but, one by one, the Colonies sided with de Gaulle and the Free French. This allowed services provided by the military to operate until life returned to normal after the war.

# Biafra : Early Mails

## Frame 45

Having declared its independence Biafra awaited the reaction of the Federal Government. The Federal Government swiftly mounted an economic blockade of the country which resulted in the UK suspending all mail services with Biafra on 5 June 1967. With links with Nigeria broken, Biafra introduced its own currency to replace the Nigerian money in circulation, the sterling system being maintained. Nigerian stamps were also affected, stocks were low and it was politically unacceptable to have them in use and so these were withdrawn and pending the introduction of Biafra's own stamps, the interim period was covered by the Postage Paid cachets. (Pages 4, 5, 6). Two types of rubber hand stamps existed. The least common was probably introduced locally at only one or two offices and was a simple PAID cachet and in use the amount due was inserted by hand. These paid cachets are known in at least two versions, serif or sanserif capitals but either version is extremely rare. (Page 9).

The more common type of rubber hand stamp was of a regular size and format and it is now known that these were produced centrally and distributed to all offices.



This rubber stamp was an outline rectangle 26mm by 19mm enclosing the words BIAFRA - Postage Paid, in two lines and set in-between them the amount due. They were produced in three versions to cover the main postal rates: 2d for printed papers, 4d for letters and 1/4d for registered letters.

The rubber stamps began coming into use from July 1967 and were discontinued on 5 February 1968 when the first Biafran adhesives were issued. Although in use for some months, examples of these cachets are not plentiful. The easiest to obtain is the 4d variety but examples of the 2d and the 1/4d are rare as are covers or pieces showing the multiple use of the cachets to make up the correct postal rates. (Pages 7, 8).

Nigerian adhesives were accepted without question for pre-payment in the Biafra postal system as were cut-outs from Nigerian airletters (a normal practice pre-war). The adhesives used were mostly the low value Animal series, the 3d Oyo Carver and the occasional commemorative such as the 1/6d World Meteorology Day etc. (Pages 1, 2). Latterly they were used in conjunction with Biafra adhesives to make up the correct postal rate. Examples of this mail are not unique and are concentrated around the April, May, June period of 1968. The last known example is 2 July 1968 and has a 1d Animal with 3 x 1d Animal Sovereign Biafra.

A surprise issue was the Sovereign Biafra overprints which were put into postal use as well as being made available to collectors. (Pages 10, 11, 12).

Stocks of Nigerian stamps were overprinted by the Government Printer who had works both at Enugu and Port Harcourt. The overprinting of stamps was a new operation and the level of expertise low, consequently many sheets could have been damaged and there are many examples of the poor quality of workmanship although the design and preparation of the plate was good. With Enugu being threatened, the Government Printer left the capital about September / October 1967. As the provisional Overprints were not released until early 1968 it was assumed that the overprinting was carried out at Port Harcourt but Mr. H.A. Obu, the Controller of the Biafran Postal Services, stated that the overprinting was carried out at Enugu on a press that was still functioning. This has been confirmed by Mr. A.N.C. Ifeacho who was second in command and who added the information that the overprinting operation was continued at Aba at the fall of Enugu.

There is evidence of a shortage of Nigeria 3d animal stamps in the Eastern Region immediately prior to independence and supplies would have been cut off by Lagos at the earliest opportunity once the declaration had been made. It is the only value not overprinted in the provisional issue.

# Biafra : Forces Mail

## Frame 46

Biafra operated a free postage for members of the armed forces and initially it was identified by the sender endorsing the letter at the top "On Active Service", sometimes abbreviated to OAS. A postmark was applied top right in place of the adhesive and on the reverse the sender's name and unit detail was usually applied. The forces did not appear to have their own post offices and mail is found franked with the postmark of the local post office. Apparently no importance was placed on the fact that the movements of units could be traced from these postmarks.

In due course units of the Biafran forces designed cachets to be applied to the mail. Some of these appear to be rubber stamps produced locally but to a basic design - oblong box 75 x 25mm, corner leaf sprigs, central Biafran sun symbol, herringbone middle motive opening out to "Forces Free" and "Postage" top and bottom of the sun. From this basic design spawned an interesting and extraordinary collection of cachets. "On active Service" and "Forces Free Postage" can frequently be found as simple oblong boxed rubber stamps as well as being incorporated in fancy designs. Similarly flamboyant designs have been found without any wording and which were obviously produced as a unit's insignia, the most well known of these being the Commando Brigade's skull and crossbones cachets. It is possible to place these inscriptions and designs into reasonably well defined groups for classification purposes:

- (a) A script or typed inscription "On Active Service" entered by the originator and frequently abbreviated to OAS. (Page 1)

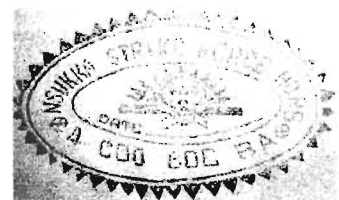
- (b) A rubber-stamped inscription "On Active Service" or "Forces Free Postage" within a single lined oblong. (Page 2)



- (c) An elaborately designed cachet incorporating "Forces Free Postage". (Pages 3 to 6)

- (d) A simple motive with "On Active Service" or "Free Postage". (Page 7)

- (e) An insignia type design sometimes with unit identification but without mention of active service or free postage. (Pages 8, 9)



- (f) An oval stamp of the type used by government departments to identify the unit, originator and with the date. (Page 10)



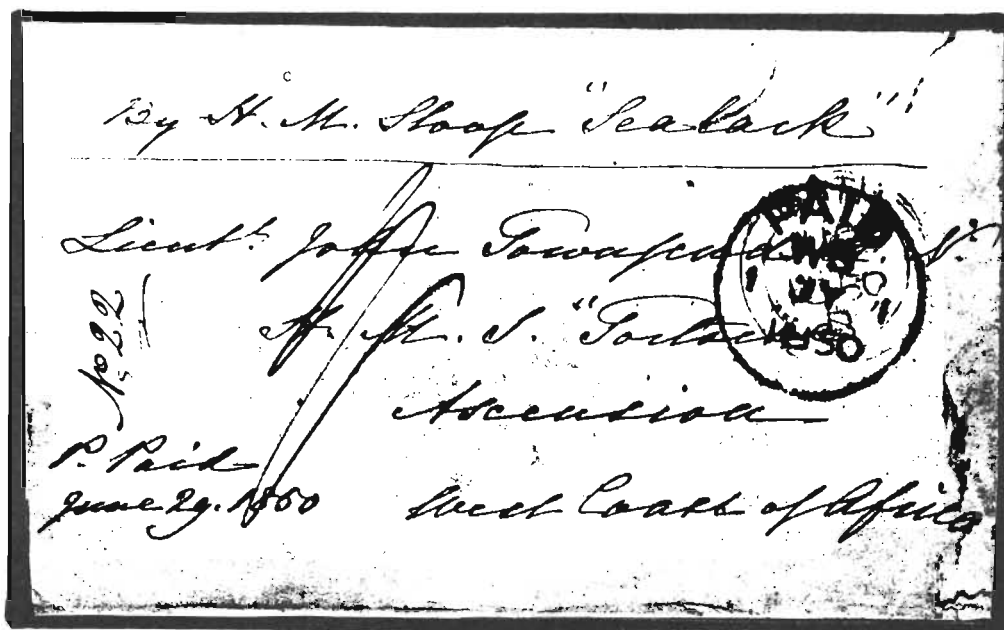
In addition to the normal forces mail, Forces Official Mail was also passed through the system and used yet another cachet:

- (g) A rubber-stamped inscription "Official" or "Certified Official" within a single lined oblong box. (Pages 10, 11)

The above type (g) should be found used in conjunction with type (f). In addition to these there are many others, oval cachets similar to those used by government departments and round types.

# Ascension Island

## Frames 47 & 48



1850 - Letter addressed to Ascension, West Coast of Africa

With WASC *Cameo Supplements* and *Ascension Study Papers*, we have moved far from the belief quoted on the London 1980 mini-sheet that "until 1857 communication with Ascension was through chance calling ships". The display begins with an 1833 entire at the India Letter rate from the flagship of the West Africa Squadron fighting the Slave Trade: most early covers are from such ships. The next cover is the earliest known at the reduced rate for sailors, a poignant Valentine from a sailor who had seen 78 of his crew die in four hours. Sooner or later, any vessel serving off West Africa visited Ascension, hence its reputation as The Sailor's Post Office, shown on an 1848 cover at the 8d Ship Letter rate, addressed to *HMS Pantaloon* at Ascension. In 1848 Packet Rate letters (1s) were possible: the one shown is dated 1851. Study of mail to Ascension shows the first packets were naval vessels on a monthly service, and later (1851) a commercial packet via Sierra Leone.

The next three covers ask "What is SG Z1"? The first cover does not count as Z1 as it is prepaid to attract the 1d sailor's rate, but the stamp (pre-cancelled judging by Robertson's *Maritime Mail*) was added in England, so no Ascension postmark. The second has 6 x 1d stamps added on the island, but went in the mailbag from the sender's ship, so again no postmark. The third has the postmark and a 1d stars stamp, the only cover recorded thus, but it is an oxidised 1857 1d rose-red, not an 1855 1d red-brown on blue paper.

Next Silver Jubilee proofs, and the plates used for this issue which distinguish the two printings. A longer section - reflecting research in the *Supplement* - is on the George VI definitives, much the most studied Ascension stamps. The 2s 6d value, the first to be printed, is shown with the vignette double, once albino, from the very first sheets printed as the plates were lined up. The *davit* flaw R5/1 was not present at first, hence its scarcity, and the development of flaws on this vignette are shown. More flaws and, perhaps, a substituted cliché, are shown for the 6d - 10s vignette, as well as the unique guide mark on the 1944 10s, made after the original printing was destroyed. Study of the 1949 reprints/new colours shows these were printed in a different order to their release. The display ends with original hand drawn artwork for the 1956 definitives. The Queen will show a better display for this issue at Stamp Show 2000 next month: but at least I've got mine in first!

# St Helena : The Perkins Bacon Plate of 1856 - 1894

## Frames 49, 50 & 51

St Helena ordered its first postage stamps from Perkins Bacon in 1854. The order was for 2,000 6d stamps; they were invoiced on 1 September 1855 and went on sale from 1 January 1856. The plate of 240 stamps was produced by a single transfer roller, after taking an impression from the original die. As the plate was laid down this single transfer roller produced two defects at 3 o'clock and 2 o'clock on the inner ring of the medallion surrounding the Queen's portrait. The development of these flaws, together with re-entries and various plate flaws, scratches, weak frame lines etc helps greatly when plating these stamps. Between 1855 and 1863 some 28,500 imperf 6d stamps were invoiced along with 6,000 clean cut perforated stamps in December 1860.

In 1862 the printing plate together with 456 sheets of imperf 6d stamps were handed over to the Crown Agents. De la Rue & Co were given authority by the Crown Agents to print 1d and 4d imperf stamps in December 1862. They were invoiced in 5 June 1863, but saw very limited use as the first issues perforated 12½ were invoiced on 11 January 1864 and probably came into use by mid 1864.



Block of Four 1d Imperf Stamps. Positions 13/14 and 25/26

The practise of printing stamps from the sixpenny plate, and then surcharging them with the required value set a precedent in stamp production.

The display covers the life of the single Perkins Bacon plate from the first issue in 1856 to the final issue almost 40 years later in 1894, in which time this single plate had produced 2,425,200 stamps (10,105 sheets). The plate was finally destroyed in 1897.

# Boer Prisoner of War Mail at St Helena

## Frame 52



September 1901 - UPU card to Germany with Broad Bottom Camp handstamp

During the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, many of the Boer prisoners were sent to St Helena to be interned on the island. Most of the Transvaalers were detained at Deadwood Camp six miles from Jamestown, whilst the Freestaters were sent to Broadbottom Camp five miles to the west. The first prisoners arrived on 11 April 1900, and their numbers gradually built up until over 5,700 were at St Helena. Following the declaration of peace on 31 May 1902, the troopship *Canada* left the island on 26 June with 380 prisoners, and by 21 October most of those remaining had returned home. Mail to and from the prisoners was subjected to censorship, during which various marks were applied. The censor additionally initialled most outgoing mail, but incoming mail was usually unsigned.

- 1 Apr 1901 A cover from Denmark showing Type 1 24mm censor circle in violet without initials, but m/s 'Bank note £5.0.0 FWA'.
- 2 Jun 1900 A cover to S. Africa with Type 1 censor circle in greyish-blue initialled FWA. Red m/s Post suspended *aw* and RETURNED / LETTER in black.
- 3 Apr 1902 A UPU postcard to Cape Town with Type 1 censor in red initialled vA, believed to be the sender.
- 4 Oct 1901 A cover to Germany with scarce Type 1a censor in black with handstamped initials A.W.P.
- 5 Mar 1901 A UPU postcard to Germany with faint Type 1 censor in violet initialled CDNS and Type 8 DEADWOOD CAMP cachet in black.
- 6 Oct 1901 Postcard to Cape Town with Type 3 PASSED BY / CENSOR / DEADWOOD initialled PR.
- 7 Apr 1902 A mourning cover from Mafeking to Deadwood Camp with unsigned Type 4 PASSED / PRESS / CENSOR double triangle in red. One of only two known in red on incoming mail.
- 8 Apr 1902 A picture postcard to Germany with Type 4 censor in violet initialled PR.
- 9 Mar 1901 A UPU postcard to S. Africa with Type 1 censor initialled GadB, and Type 9 BROAD BOTTOM CAMP cachet, both in greyish-black.
- 10 Sep 1901 A UPU postcard registered to Germany with Type 2 30mm BROAD BOTTOM CAMP censor circle in violet signed GA de Beer.
- 11 Jun 1901 A cover from Deadwood Camp to Germany with, unusually, Type 2 censor of BROAD BOTTOM CAMP in violet signed AWP in red. This is not the AWP handstamp shown in sheet 4.
- 12 Jun 1902 The reply portion of a UPU postcard registered to Holland with unsigned Type 6 PASSED BY CENSOR / HEAD OFFICE / ST. HELENA. double triangle in violet.

# West Africa Study Circle

## Scope

The West Africa Study Circle, formed in 1950, is the international specialist society for the study of stamps, postal stationery and postal history of all of West Africa. It originated from small specialist groups which already existed, and has undergone several expansions of scope. The following areas are covered in the most detail:

- ◆ Ascension
- ◆ Cameroons (British Occupation)
- ◆ Gambia
- ◆ Gold Coast
- ◆ Nigeria
- ◆ St Helena
- ◆ Sierra Leone
- ◆ Togoland (British Occupation)

Additionally, several smaller areas are also included:

- ◆ British Postal Agencies on Madeira, Tenerife, St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) and Fernando Po.

Study dates from the earliest times of British influence and includes military campaigns, maritime and airmails.

## Membership

Membership of the WASC costs £12 per year for UK residents, or £14 for overseas. There is an entry fee of £5 for new members. The membership secretary's name and address is on page 265. The society's representative in North America can handle most queries as well as accept subscriptions in dollar cheques.

## *Cameo* Journal

The journal of the West Africa Study Circle has been published continuously since 1975. During that period there have been just three editors. *Cameo* appears twice each year, in January and July. It is in A4 format, typically with fifty pages of a wide range of articles and comment. There are sections reviewing recently published literature and auction reports. The magazine has been awarded silver medals at both national and international philatelic competitions. There is an independently produced *Cameo Supplement* featuring articles on St Helena and Ascension.

In addition to *Cameo*, there is a quarterly Secretary's newsletter detailing news and meetings.

## Meetings

The study circle meets twice a year in London. These events are usually in early March and November. An informal meeting is also held in Salisbury during July each year.

Additionally, a weekend conference is held every second year. The venue varies; previous meetings have been held at York, Leamington and Chester. These have been most successful with many members bringing their partners to enjoy the social side of the weekend.

## Auctions

A society postal auction is held twice a year allowing members the opportunity to buy and sell specialised material at low commission rates. The auctions are timed to allow viewing at the society's London meetings for those able to attend. The bi-annual conference has a live auction.

## Library

The society has a large library of several hundred volumes of books, catalogues, cuttings etc which is generally available for research. Books may be borrowed within the United Kingdom members. A deposit for the loan of the more valuable items may be asked. Postage both ways must be paid by the borrower. Enquiries can be sent to the Hon. Librarian, whose address appears on page 265.

## Philatelic Queries

There are separate editors for each study area who can be addressed directly by members.

## Publications

One of the most active areas of the society is the publication of philatelic literature, ranging from definitive handbooks on major subjects down to monographs on very specialised topics. All literature published is made available to members of the study circle at discounted prices. Several of the society's recent publications have received high awards at national and international competitions.

The following books are available from the Hon. Librarian for purchase by members at discounted prices. Postage and packing will be charged at cost.

	Retail Price	WASC Members
<i>Nigeria : The Travelling Post Offices 1903-1939</i> by Jack Ince	£9	£7
<i>Gold Coast Post Offices &amp; Cancellations 1875-1957</i> by Mike Mackin	£12	£10
<i>The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961</i> by Frank Walton	£12	£10
<i>Indexes to Post Offices of the Gold Coast</i> by Frank Walton, Mike Mackin & Robert Nelson	£3	£2
<i>West African Censorship (Second edition)</i> by Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton	£25	£20
<i>The Cancellations &amp; Postmarks of Nigeria (Second edition)</i> by Neville Jones	£35	£30
<i>The Postal Services of the Gold Coast</i> edited by Michael Ensor	£30	£24
<i>King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Design</i> by Peter Fernbank	£48	£40
<i>Sierra Leone Registration</i> by Frank Walton	£4.50	£3.50
<i>Cumulative Index to Cameo Volumes 1 to 4</i> by Frank Walton	£5	£2
<i>Togo : The Postal History of Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922</i> by Jeremy Martin & Frank Walton	£22	£17

Prices and addresses correct as at April 2000.

# Contributors

Contributors to the West Africa Study Circle display include:

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