

# CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

**ST. HELENA MILITARY UNIFORMS IV**

**ON SALE 19th JUNE 1972**  
**27p PER SET**

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2  
WHOLE NUMBER 66

OCTOBER 2005



# Stanley Gibbons

Commonwealth Department.

With over 150 years of experience, we have the most interesting and extensive Commonwealth stock available and the experience to match.



Items recently offered  
from our ever  
changing stock.



Togo.  
1914 2m SG H11a  
Occupation double.

Do you receive our  
illustrated list?

Togo.  
1914 3pf type 3 opt.

To register your interests, simply call 020 7836 8444 and ask to speak to  
Pauline MacBroom

Email: [pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk)

Thomas Fisher

Email: [tfisher@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:tfisher@stanleygibbons.co.uk)

View our huge range of stock at  
[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

Stanley Gibbons also buy stamps and collections.

STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED, 399 STRAND LONDON WC2R 0LX

TEL: 020 7836 8444 FAX: 020 7836 7342

**West Africa Study Circle  
President : Peter Duggan**

**Joint CAMEO Editors**

Barry Burns  
20 Tanton Rd., Stokesley  
MIDDLESBROUGH TS9 5HP  
☎ 01642 710636  
bmburns@20tanton.freemove.co.uk

Robert May  
Longdown Farm Cottage, Cadshen  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH  
HP27 0NF, UK  
☎ Home 01844 344336  
☎ Office 01844 262031  
robmay@freenet.co.uk

**Hon. Secretary**

John Powell, "Middle Path"  
23 Brook Street, Edlesborough  
DUNSTABLE LU6 2JG  
☎ 01525 220196

**Hon. Treasurer**

Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Rd.,  
EDINBURGH EH12 7SR  
☎ 0131 334 7866  
ghanastampman@aol.com

**Hon. Membership Secretary**

Peter Duggan, 75 Alexandra Rd.,  
READING RG1 5PS  
☎ 0118 966 3220

**Hon. Auctioneer**

John Smith, 52 Eastway  
GREASBY, Wirral CH49 2NT  
☎ 01516 786201  
stamps.johnsmith@btinternet.com

**Hon. Advertising Manager**

Peter Rolfe, "Merok",  
28 Ashford Road, BEARSTED  
Kent, ME14 4LP  
☎ 01622 737476

**Hon. Librarian**

Oliver Andrew, 52 Valley Drive  
BRIGHTON, W. Sussex  
BN1 5FA  
☎ 01273 564908

**North American Representative**

Peter Newroth, Suite 603  
5332 Sayward Hill Crescent  
VICTORIA BC, V8Y 3H8, Canada  
prnew@shaw.ca  
☎ (250) 658 3998

**Webmaster**

Ray Harris  
harris6@which.net

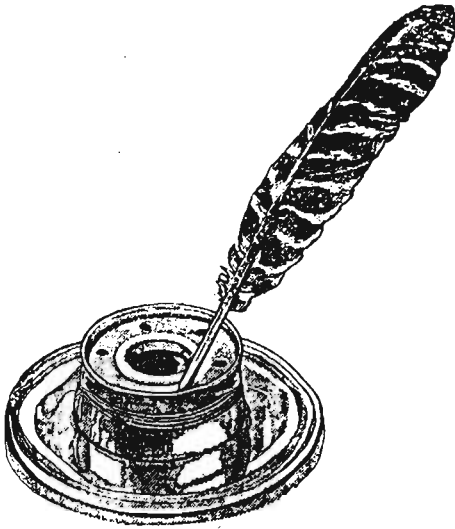
**Web Site:** <http://www.wasc.org.uk>

**Contents**

Editorial		62
Letters to the Editor:		63
Mayne, Harris, Martin, Walton (2)		
Bookshelf:		65
<i>Madame Joseph Revisited</i> by Brian M. Cartwright		
<i>The P.H. of Ascension, St Helena &amp; Tristan</i> by Edward B. Proud		
<i>England's Mail - two millennia of letter writing</i> by Philip Beale		
Obituary - John Attwood	by Philip Beale	66
Articles of Interest in Other Journals		66
Another 'Vapeur' - <i>Le Faadji</i>	by John Mayne	67
Early Days of Aviation in Nigeria	by Jack Ince FRPSL	68
Specimen H/S of St Helena & Ascension	by Barry Burns	72
St Helena KGV 'Badge' Wmk Varieties	by Barry Burns	81
Sierra Leone QV Five Shilling Forgery	by Frank Walton FRPSL	82
1/4d at St Helena - Accountancy or Charge?	by Barry Burns et al	82
Merrell Correspondence from West Africa	by Arthur Watkins	86
Nigeria Post Paid 1951	by Jeremy Martin FRPSL	88
Captain R. Edmondson at St Helena	by Trevor Hearl	88
French 19th C. Coastal Shipping service	by John Sacher FRPSL	90
Censorship of Post War Nigerian Mail	by Tony Plumbe	90
Biafra Update - The Early Mails	by Dudley Prestedge	92
The Adrian Cadbury Auction Sale	by J. Martin & A. Plumbe	94
Unidentified Cachet of St Helena	by Bob Richardson	96
Nigeria KGV1 1/3d Wmk S/W Forgery	by Barry Burns	96
Nigeria: 1962 National Savings Stamps	by Jeremy Martin FRPSL	97
Tristan 1961 S.A. Currency Postage Dues	by Jeremy Martin FRPSL	97
Lomé à Atakpame Convoyeur P/M	by John Mayne	99
Taxed Forces' Mail at Bamenda 1961	by Bob Maddocks	100
Nigerian Military Ops. in S. Cameroons	by Bob Maddocks	101
Sierra Leone PC Air Rate to UK in 1950	by Frank Walton FRPSL	102
Biafra: The Rev. R.G. Brown Corresp.	by A Plumbe & B. Priddy	103
Wilberforce Cinderella Item	by Frank Walton FRPSL	105
Update on Perfs. of Nigeria 1999-2001	by Ray Harris	105
St Helena - 1937 Printing of 7/6d Value	by Ralph Stanton	107
Ascension (Not St Helena) Printings of 1937	by Barry Burns	108
A New Tiko Parcel Post Cancel?	by Thompson & Bratzel	110
Flying Nuggets	by Tony Plumbe	110
Cameroun 1961 Sterling Surcharges-1/2d val.	by Rob May	111
Newly Found Post-War Nigerian 1st Flights	by Tony Plumbe	112
Togo Mail from Tokpli	by John Mayne	114
S. Rhodesian Cont.in W. Africa in WWII	by John Daynes	117
Togo Telegrams	by John Mayne	120



# Letters to the Editor



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.

Correspondence on any subject is always most appreciated. Any form of contact is welcome, whether by letter, telephone or email.

The joint editors' addresses are listed on the front page of all *Cameo* issues.

Barry Burns

## French Labels

Dear Barry,

The block of Sainte - Hélène labels illustrated in *Cameo* 65 page 23 appears very similar to a range of labels printed in Paris for most colonies. I can give no indication re date of issue - between the wars perhaps - but they were I believe printed at the Paris printing works. The article asks for the colours known, and I enclose a copy of a complete sheet of twenty of Indochina vignettes for Laos, printed in deep blue on cream paper (*top centre of sheet illustrated below - Ed.*). There is no central gutter on this sheet. I cannot recall seeing too many on cover and one asks did they ever reach the colonies in question? I have seen similar for West Africa in red-brown and green, but cannot put my hand on others at present. I recently saw a single or two offered at a stamp fair at £5 each but when asked, the dealer declined to put a value on a full sheet.

John Mayne  
Bridgnorth

## Web Site Updates

Members are reminded that the Society's web site is updated from time to time. The index for Volume 8 of *Cameo*, and an index to the pictorial designs of Nigerian stamps since 1960, have been added. Web details are on page 64.

Ray Harris

## Correction

Dear Barry,

In the January 2005 edition of *Cameo*, Volume 8 No. 5 Whole No. 64 page 269, an article by John Daynes and I was titled *The French Operation in Nigeria 1942 - 1943*. A more accurate title, agreed with John, would be *Belgian Troops in Nigeria 1942 - 1943*.

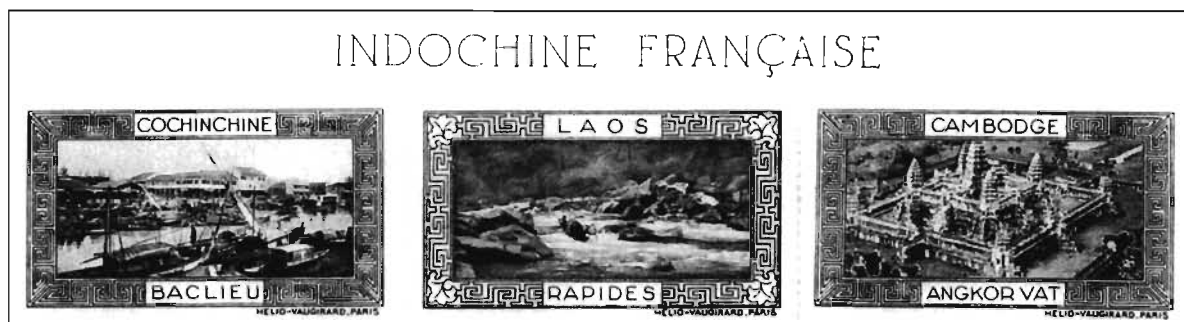
Jeremy Martin  
Salisbury

## Chinese West Africa (I)

Gentlemen,

Wartime air mail from China to Europe and the USA took several creative routes, but perhaps none more so than the Calcutta-Cairo-Lagos-Brazil-Miami one. I am currently recording examples of mail which was carried on this route with a view to writing an article which I plan to offer to both *Cameo* and *Journal of the China Philatelic Society of London*. It would be much appreciated if any members of the WASC could send me scans or photocopies of both the front and back of any covers they have.

Frank Walton  
Dronfield





## Chinese West Africa (II)

Barry,

The article on the FAM 22 cover in *Cameo* 65 pp47/49 reminded me instantly of Neville Jones. He related stories of how he used to wind up our dealer friends by asking for 'Chinese West Africa' - a reference to exactly the kind of cover described.

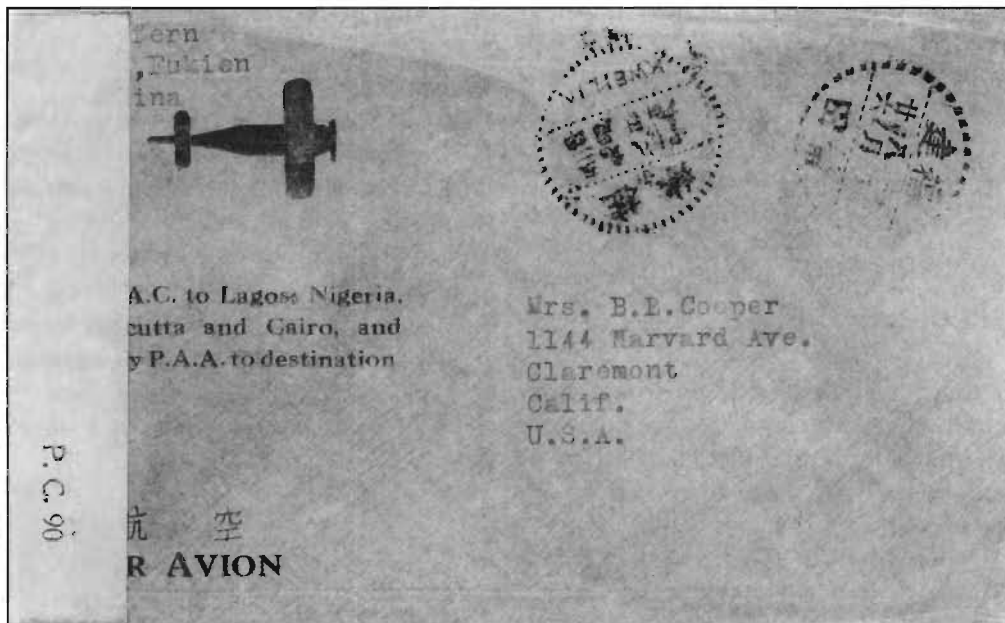
One of my side-line collections is of Chinese air mails, and I do have several wartime covers that flew the Lagos route to either Europe or North America. Whilst I cannot show another example of the label described, I have an identically worded pre-printed version of this instruction. My cover (illustrated below) is from Kwelin to California and is postmarked (in Chinese) 26 August 1943. The adhesives are on the back.

The rate to North America via this route changed on 6 November 1943; the new rate was a total of \$2.00 surface up to 20g, plus \$10.00 per 5g air mail, plus \$2.00 registration fee. The cover described by Jack is thus slightly overpaid by 20c. It is actually more unusual to find a cover that matches the official rate than it is to find one that isn't quite right!

Frank Walton  
Dronfield

WASC Study Editors are also available for queries and to help edit articles

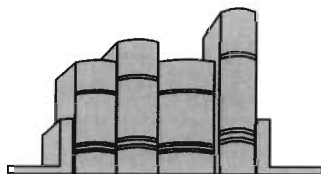
- Airmails - Barbara Priddy
- Ascension - Bernard Hughes
- Biafra - Dudley Prestedge
- Cameroons - Marty Bratzel
- Gambia - Oliver Andrew
- Ghana - Ian Anderson
- Gold Coast - Peter Newroth
- Lagos - John Sacher
- Maritime - John Knight
- Nigerias to 1914 - John Sacher
- Nigeria post 1914 - Tony Plumbe
- St. Helena - Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone - Philip Beale & Peter Rolfe
- Togo - Jeremy Martin



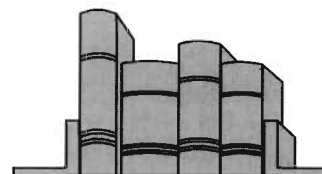
Access to the internet? Then please try visiting the re-launched  
West Africa Study Circle Web Site at :

<http://www.wasc.org.uk>


Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact [harris6@which.net](mailto:harris6@which.net)



## Bookshelf




*Distribution of West Africa Study Circle publications has been changed. Please send orders and payments to the Treasurer (address on contents page). Authors will distribute their own new publications to members, whilst distribution of purchases from older stocks is arranged via the Treasurer.*

 *Madame Joseph Revisited* by Brian M. Cartwright FRPSL. RPSL, London, 2005. 96 A4 pages, 40 in colour, hard bound with colour dust jacket. Includes 34 clear acetate A4 overlays in separate ring binder. All enclosed in sturdy slip case. ISBN 0-900631-38-4 Price £49, Post and packing: UK £6; Available from RPSL, SG, Vera Trinder Ltd., etc. Reviewed by Barry Burns.

I was fortunate enough to purchase the original edition of the important work *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks* by the late Derek Worboys and WASC member Roger B. West when published in 1994. This detailed the forged cancellers or 'implements' used by 'Madame Joseph' and other unscrupulous persons to provide fine used examples of Commonwealth stamps from the 1900-1955 period. Most of these cancellers were accurate and very dangerous, and until the original book was published they must have deceived many collectors, including your reviewer. Most Commonwealth territories, including all our West African interests except Tristan; were covered. However, as in many other cases of well documented forgeries, they have become collectable in their own right, and one such collector (and exhibitor) is Brian Cartwright of Stanley Gibbons - an ideal candidate for updating the original work.

This new edition is an excellent production, the book illustrating in black and white all the known implements, which are also reproduced on the overlays enabling suspected candidates to be checked. Many pages from Brian's collection are reproduced in very good colour, and the publication is a pleasure to read and handle. It offers very good value, and if your interests include used Commonwealth stamps of the period do not hesitate to buy this essential reference work; the 1994 edition quickly sold out and became itself a collectors item - this is destined to follow suit.

 *The Postal History of Ascension, St Helena & Tristan da Cunha* by Edward B. Proud. Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., Heathfield, 2005. 248 167x244mm pages, many illustrations, hard bound with colour dust jacket. ISBN 1 8 72465 331 Price £40, post and packing: UK £4, overseas surface mail £6; Available from Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., PO Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PZ, UK. Reviewed by Barry Burns.


This book was as difficult to review as the above (Madame Joseph) was easy. I had eagerly awaited its publication, the first to cover the postal history of the three South Atlantic islands, but must admit that my first impression was not very favourable.

The book is well produced and nicely laid out, with separate chapters each covering the general history, postal history, postal rates, and Post Offices and postmarks of the three islands in turn. The period covered is up to decimalisation in 1971, except for Tristan da Cunha which is up to the evacuation of the island following the volcanic eruption in 1961. There are many illustrations of maps, early prints, postcards and photographs, some of which were taken during the WASC visit of 2002. Extracts of archival material are reproduced, some at great length such as the postal rates of St Helena for 1854 which total seven pages. Most of the postmarks and other markings are reproduced with some, but not all, given a valuation. A detailed list of ships carrying mail visiting Tristan from 1886-1961 is very useful, as are the tables of (simplified) postal rates of the three islands. Much pleasure can be derived from dipping into the book, and there is information here not readily accessible elsewhere. I enjoyed looking at and studying the early maps, prints and engravings (the latter presumably from *Illustrated London News*, although not credited).

Why, then, was I disappointed? This was my first experience of Ted Proud's prodigious output, but I am told by seasoned readers that this book suffers the usual shortcomings. Although the archive material is very useful his sources are not well documented - they are given without comment and the reader is left to

interpret their relevance and importance. The bibliography and, particularly the index, are a joke, with the former failing to list John Attwood's standard book on the stamps and postal history of Ascension, and Bernard Mabbett's essential study of the Censorship of the Boer POW camps on St Helena - one of the most important aspects of the Island's postal history. This is a particularly serious omission, as Ted completely ignores this aspect in his work. Although most of the early engravings are well printed, a few of the recent photographs are quite poorly reproduced. Typographical errors and spelling mistakes are numerous, and I was particularly disappointed that John Attwood's name was twice misspelled Altwood on page 243. For a book devoted to postal history I was stunned to find that not one cover is illustrated or described, apart from the forgery on page 160.

This work should be regarded as a useful addition to those already published, and not a replacement for them. Summing up then, a recommendation, but with many reservations.

 *England's Mail - two millennia of letter writing* by Philip Beale. 320 pages, published by Tempus Publications and available through any bookseller, price £19.99.

Although not connected with West Africa, readers may be interested in this book, an extensively revised edition of Philip's earlier book *A History of the Post in England to 1635*, with more colour plates and illustrations. Several university historians have helped with the text.



### Obituary John Attwood

John was for many years an active member of our Study Circle, being author of the standard work *Ascension - The Stamps and Postal History*, published by Robson Lowe in 1981. It was the result of many years of study that ended with a draft publication shown to other collectors. A further eight years passed before he felt the work was ready for publication. Modestly he described it as intended to illustrate how wide ranging is the philatelic interest of this small island. We often had the pleasure of seeing items from his Ascension collection and of discussing his covers and stamps. He was also a collector of Crash Mail.

John became President of our Circle and attended our meetings when his busy life made that possible. Later ill health prevented him coming. He had many interests, being an author of novels and also of the life of Dick Whittington, the celebrated Mayor of London. He trained as an engineer and served in the navy before working for Hawker Siddeley and then Exxon, designing engines for super tankers. He particularly enjoyed gardening and, after the death of his wife, the bowling club helped to keep him going. His funeral in June this year was at his local Anglican Church where he had worshipped and been a sidesman. I am grateful to Tom Butlin for helping in putting together this tribute to a friendly man who helped forward the work and publications of our Circle.

Philip Beale

## Articles of Interest Published in Other Journals

*Members are invited to contact either editor by e-mail, post or telephone when they notice any article they feel might be of interest to other members.*

**Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society** Volume 55 No. 2, June 2005

*British Censorship Control of Communications during WWII - Belgian Congo, French Equatorial Africa and French Cameroun* by Bob Maddocks

**Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin** Volume 32 No. 2, April 2005

*WWII GB PC90 Type 1 Resealing Labels Used in the UK* by Konrad Morenwieser (Labels found applied to inbound mails to the UK from all over the world including sources in West Africa)

**Forces Postal History Society Newsletter No. 264, Summer 2005**

*Die Deutschen Grossen Katzen* by John Leathes (in English), which includes SMS *Panther* (MSP 47) which was on the West Indian and West African stations from 1900 to 1914

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly February 2005**

*The Shackleton - Rowett Expedition of 1922 and the Visit to Gough Island* by Robin Taylor

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2005**

*Society Reviews - Specialist Society Journals under the Magnifying Glass, Cameo Issues 58-64* by Ashley Lawrence p103 (fortunately, very complimentary!)

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly October 2005**

*From Pooley to Partridge: Philatelic Activities on Tristan da Cunha between 1927 and 1933* by Robin Taylor

*South Atlantic Spectaculars* by Reg Taylor (The new Tristan da Cunha Bird definitives)

**Stamp Magazine January 2005**

*An Island of Extremes* by Richard West p74-75 (A visit to Ascension Island)

## Another 'Vapeur' - Le Faadji

**John Mayne**

Within hours of *Cameo 65* arriving, a WASC member telephoned to advise not only had he read my article on page 58, *Benin - Lagos Vapeur Service*, but he had acquired the Postal Stationery card illustrated in that article. Small comfort to know the item had gone to a good home!

Recently I acquired a postcard (Fig. 1, at 80% and 70%) of a second vapeur - le *Faadji* - from the picture this appears to carry the insignia of Chargeurs Réunis of Bordeaux who jointly with Fraissinet et Cie of Marseille operated the French West African mail service.

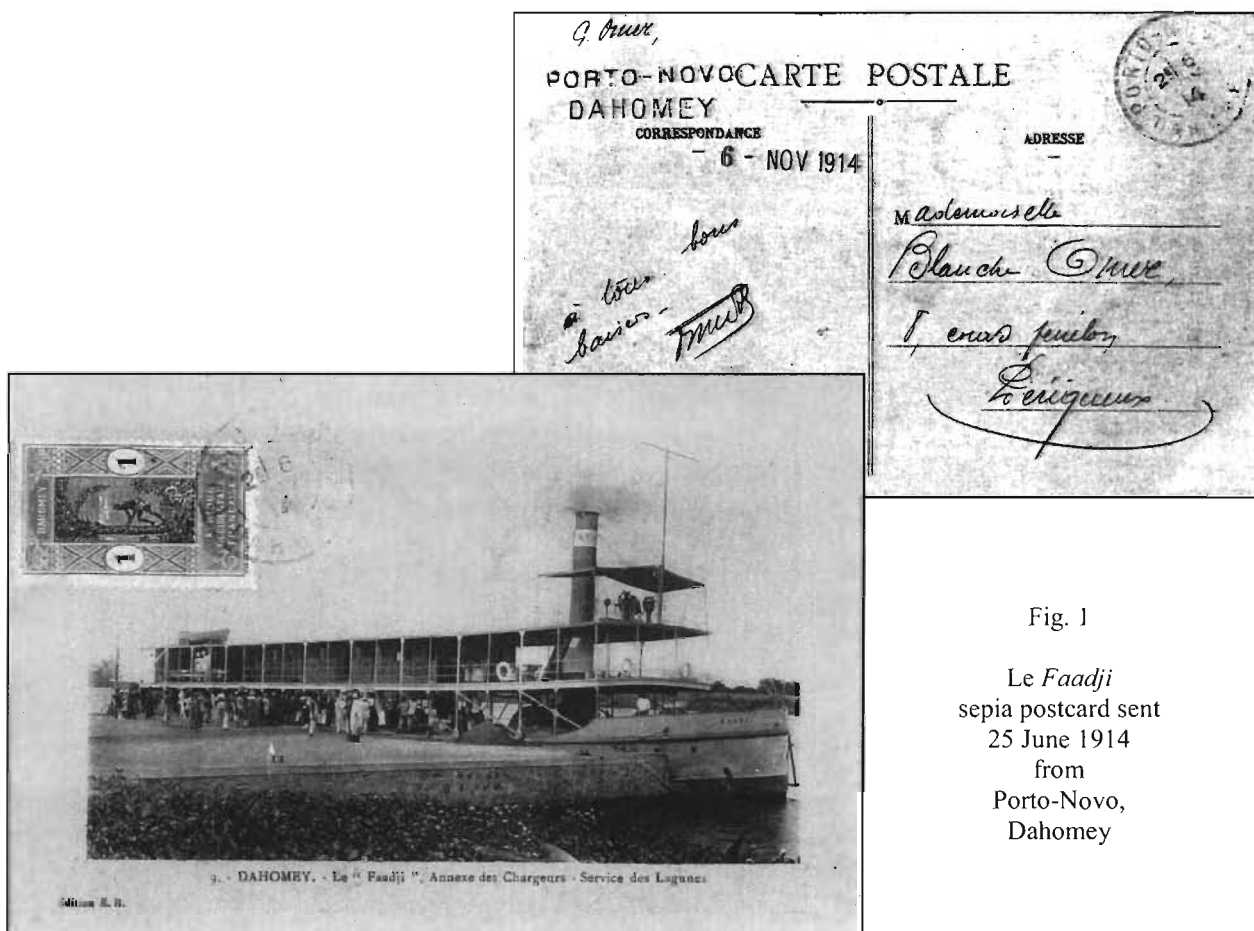


Fig. 1

Le *Faadji*  
sepia postcard sent  
25 June 1914  
from  
Porto-Novo,  
Dahomey

Also acquired was a coloured card (Fig. 2, also at 80% and 70%) of a piroque on a lagoon between Cotonou and Porto-Novo, unfortunately no evidence of mail being carried.

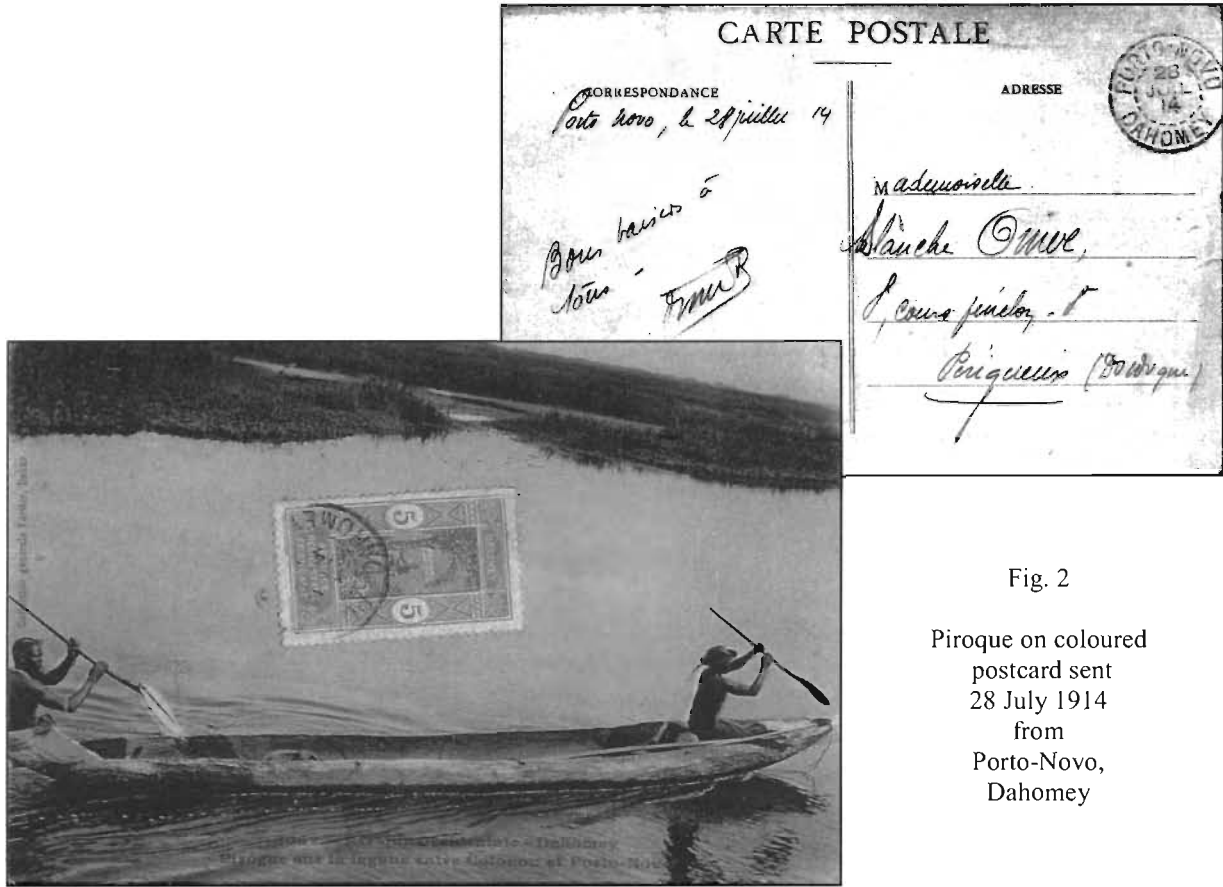


Fig. 2

Piroque on coloured postcard sent 28 July 1914 from Porto-Novo, Dahomey

## Early Days of Aviation in Nigeria

### Jack Ince FRPSL

Jeremy Martin's contributions in the July 1999 issue of *Cameo* (Ref. 1) has prompted me to resurrect my hitherto unpublished research notes on the early days of aviation in Nigeria. These notes are entirely from the Nigerian Government's departmental reports of the period and are placed in chronological order, with source shown.

#### Year 1928

The Marine Department report for this year records that the Director of Marine was on 27 November appointed Registrar of Aircraft and Advisor to Government on all matters connected with the development and control of aviation in Nigeria.

The report notes that 'the duties are not very onerous at present but it is obvious that they will rapidly increase and it is difficult to see what their eventual scope will be'.

#### Year 1929

##### a) Marine Department Report.

No programme on the development and control of aviation can be recorded for the year. Early in the year, although no policy had been adopted, it was decided to make a start for experimental and demonstrative purposes with a small seaplane. Funds were provided in the Estimates and an ex-RAF officer was seconded to the Marine Department from the Police as Aviation and Flying Officer, and an indent was forwarded to the Crown Agents for a Moth seaplane with interchangeable land carriage.

The advice of the UK Air Ministry was meanwhile sought as to the best policy to pursue. Their advice was that it would be more satisfactory to Government to contract for its air service with one of the English aircraft companies than to start a service on its own. As a result of this, proposals for the purchase of a seaplane were abandoned, and as the lowest tender from any commercial company for a minimum service in Nigeria were more than the money voted for aviation purposes, nothing further was done. It has now been arranged for an officer from the Air Ministry to visit Nigeria and other West African colonies to advise generally on what policy should be adopted. His arrival is still awaited.

A visit of a flight of 3 RAF planes from Egypt took place in November. These machines landed at Maidugeri, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Kaduna, Minna, Ilorin, Jos, Bauchi, Yola and Lagos. From Lagos they flew to Accra and several Gold Coast towns and returned. Landing grounds at all the above places were prepared for them and were reported to be generally satisfactory. At Lagos a temporary landing ground has been laid out at Apapa Point and a Laterite runway 1500 feet long laid. This ground was reported as too small by the flight officer for a permanent aerodrome, the site for which has not been decided upon. A sum of £1200 was spent in levelling and making the runway.

One privately owned Moth biplane has been flown in Nigeria during the year, mostly on 'stunts' and pleasure trips from Kano as a base. In October this machine flew to Lagos whence it was packed up and despatched home for re-conditioning.

#### b) Nigeria Gazette 24 October 1929

As from 1 November 1929 air mail correspondence will be accepted at all Head Post Offices in Nigeria for onward transmission by air from the UK to the continent of Europe, India, Iraq, Australia and certain parts of North and South America.

All air mail correspondence must bear a special blue air mail label in the upper left hand corner of the envelope - obtainable from any Head Post Office.

Air mail must be prepaid in stamps with ordinary postage and, in addition, the appropriate air mail fee.

Parcel air mails may be posted at any Head Post Office with an 'Air Mail' label affixed to the address label of the parcel and to the relative Dispatch Note, with a conspicuous 'AIR MAIL' in m/s on the cover of the parcel, and payment of the appropriate rate of postage.

#### Year 1930

##### a) Marine Department Report

There are landing grounds in Nigeria, viz:- at Lagos, Ilorin, Minna, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Yola and Maidugeri. These are in a more or less advanced stage of completion but the facilities provided are not, at present, sufficiently attractive to encourage aviation to visit Nigeria. A representative of the Air Ministry arrived in Lagos on 18 June and spent some six weeks inspecting these and other sites which have been proposed from time to time, either as landing grounds or seaplane bases. Pending a final report from the Air Ministry, no further action is being taken as regards the development of aviation. Regulations under the Air Navigation Order in Council have been drafted and will be enacted when the air policy to be pursued by Government is determined.

The Aviation Officer seconded to this Department returned to normal duties with the Police Department on 1 April.

A flight of RAF machines en route from Egypt to The Gambia visited the Northern Provinces in October and again on their return journey in November.

Two Italian airplanes en route from Cape Town to Rome arrived in Lagos on 13 December. A third machine piloted by the flight leader, crashed while attempting to land at Lagos (?). The pilot was uninjured but the machine was badly damaged and shipped by sea to Lagos where it was sufficiently repaired to enable the flight to proceed later in December.

##### b) Posts and Telegraph Report

A flight of the RAF made a successful journey from Cairo to Nigeria and thence to Accra, Sierra Leone and Bathurst, visiting Maidugeri, Kano and Sokoto on the outward and homeward journeys. Due to engine trouble one of the planes made a forced landing at Bulkachua (21 miles east of Azare) in the Katagum Division of Bauchi Province and extensive damage was done to the machine but its occupants were unhurt. M. Walter Mittelholzer, director of Swiss Adastr Aviation Co. Zurich, visited Kano in a three-engined

Fokker passenger plane in December. Mr. A.K. Macomber of the USA, one of the passengers, visited Maidugeri and Chad on Xmas Day in this plane.

### **Year 1931**

#### **a) Marine Department Report**

The financial situation has precluded any progress being made regarding the development of aviation in Nigeria. The landing grounds are in an indifferent condition and will require much clearing and levelling before they can be considered fit for use.

An RAF flight from Egypt visited the Northern Provinces in November, the aeroplane landing at Maidugeri and Kano. It was originally intended that the flight should proceed to Freetown and Bathurst but unforeseen circumstances rendered it necessary to curtail the programme and the aircraft went no further west than Kano, leaving there on the return journey on 8 November.

Two English airmen, Messrs Cowan and Bembridge with a German mechanic flying a Junkers aeroplane arrived in Lagos on 5 October and made several demonstration and commercial flights including one trip to Accra and back. At the end of the year negotiations were proceeding in an endeavour to form a public company to finance a scheme of regular commercial airways.

A Portuguese aviator visited Lagos on 13 January flying a de Havilland Moth aeroplane, leaving 14 January for Luanda. He re-visited Lagos on 29 January on his return journey, leaving the following day for Accra.

A Polish military aeroplane from Warsaw made a forced landing on the beach near Lagos lighthouse on 31 March, afterwards landing on the Apapa landing ground. The machine left for Grand Bassau on 2 April.

#### **b) Northern Nigeria Report**

A flight of the RAF made a successful flight from Egypt to Nigeria in October and after visiting Maidugeri, Kano, Bauchi, Katsina and Sokoto proceeded to Niamey returning to Sokoto the following day. It had been intended the flight should visit Jos but this had to be cancelled owing to it being in yellow fever quarantine.

Two French civil aeroplanes landed at Kano in January en route from Zinder to Fort Lamy.

#### **c) Nigeria Gazette 6 July 1931 - Letter Air Mail Services via GB**

Air Mail correspondence will be accepted at all Head Post Offices and at Apapa and Jebba Sub-offices for onward transmission by air from Britain to Europe, Canada, India, Syria and other countries (cancels notice of 24 October 1929).

Nigeria Gazette 27 October 1931 - Combined Postage and Air Mail fees

- 1 For internal letters: 6d per oz
- 2 For letters addressed to GB, any British Colony or Protectorate, forwarded by internal air mail to connect with homeward Mail Steamer at Lagos: 6½d per oz
- 3 For letters to foreign countries forwarded by internal air mail to connect with homeward Mail Steamer at Lagos: 7½d per oz

Any letter or item of correspondence insufficiently prepaid for conveyance by air mail will be diverted to the ordinary mails for transmission unless the full amount of the air fee of 4½d per oz has been prepaid. If the amount prepaid represents at least the amount of the air mail fee, the letter will be surcharged double the deficiency and will be forwarded by air mail. No registered correspondence can be accepted for conveyance by internal air mail.

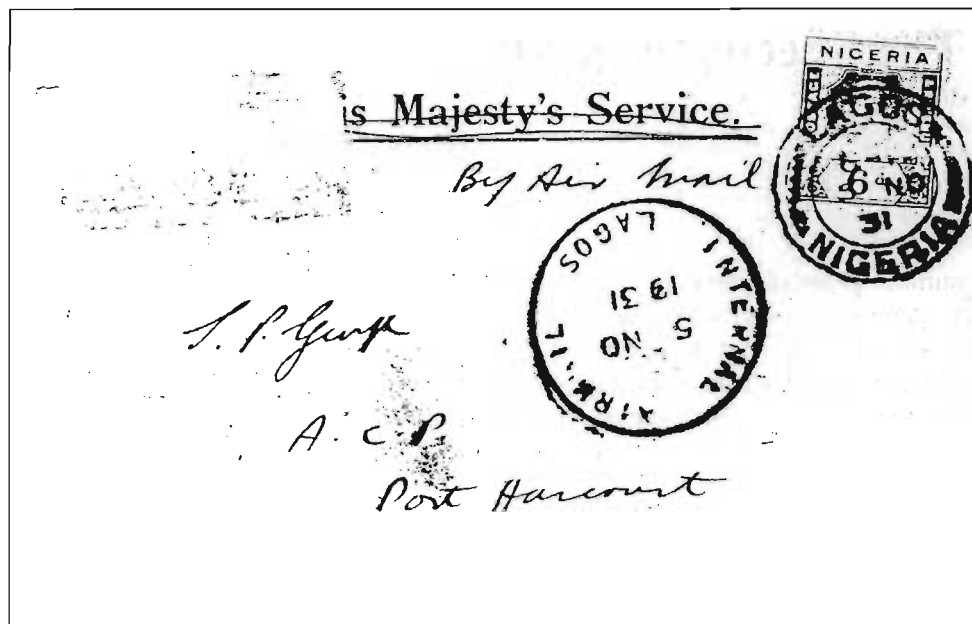
Nigeria Gazette 29 October 1931 - Internal Air Mail Service

Experimental - all classes of correspondence except parcels. Between Lagos and Tiko via Port Harcourt and Calabar from 6 November 1931.

Service once a week leaving Lagos every Friday am returning from Tiko Saturday am.

[Note: This service departed Lagos on 6 November, the carrying aircraft being a Junkers 13 twin float plane of the British Aero Development Company, piloted by Mr J.J. Cowan. It broke down at Port Harcourt and mail on board was forwarded to destinations by surface routes. The experiment was abandoned.] (Figure 1).

Fig. 1  
 Note datestamp of  
 5 November 1931,  
 the mail having  
 been processed at the  
 Head Post Office  
 at Lagos the  
 previous day



### Year 1932

No report available.

### Year 1933

The Marine Department reported that the financial situation had precluded any progress being made regarding the development of aviation. There are no proper aerodromes in Nigeria and such landing grounds as exist are only of an emergency character and it is desirable that ample notification be given by aviators who may wish to make use of them. The series of creeks and lagoons along the coastline of Nigeria renders this area eminently suitable for seaplane operations.

An RAF flight en route from Egypt to Bathurst visited the Northern Provinces in October and again on the return journey in December.

### 1934 and Later

No other department reports of significance were available for my research at the Royal Commonwealth Society Library in London before it was removed to Cambridge c.1991.

However, by 1935 plans were well advanced for Imperial Airways to open its West African Feeder Service from Khartoum, initially to Kano. The first flight No. WAS 1 ex Khartoum on 3 February 1936 arrived Kano on 6 February. The second flight No. WAS 2, the first service to carry mail, departed Khartoum on 14 February (2 days late) and arrived Kano 16 February, the carrying aircraft being RMA *Daedalus*. It left Kano, service No. WAN 2, on 17 February arriving back at Khartoum 20 February.

Nigeria by now had an air mail service to the UK; the feeder service was subsequently extended to Lagos and later to the Gold Coast.

References to the early days of aviation in Nigeria (in some cases the information requires updating) can be found in the following issues of *Cameo*:-

Volume 1	pages	77, 123, 148
Volume 2	pages	98, 195
Volume 3	page	18
Volume 4	page	288
Volume 7	page	178

### Reference

- 1 Martin J.J., "Nigerian Airways Internal Routes", *Cameo*, Volume 6 p191, WASC, July 1999  
 Martin J.J., "West African Airmail First Flights", *Cameo*, Volume 6 p194, WASC, July 1999

# The Specimen Handstamps of St Helena & Ascension

Barry Burns

## Introduction

A number of articles relating to the SPECIMEN handstamps found on stamps of St Helena and Ascension have appeared in the *St Helena (& Ascension) Supplement* and *Cameo* over the last twenty years. What follows is an attempt to gather this information together - including some previously unpublished discoveries - and discuss the status of two handstamps which were not listed by Samuel. I am not concerned here with those stamps overprinted or perforated by the various printers for distribution to member countries of the UPU.

## Background

The stamps which I am about to describe are those which Marcus Samuel categorised as 'Presentation Specimens', defined as stamps which were presented to individual VIP's, generally in sets, after having been cancelled to prevent their postal use (Ref. 1), or 'Display Specimens' i.e. cancelled stamps which were put on display at post offices, etc., to indicate what stamps were available for purchase (Ref. 2). Both categories were probably handstamped locally, and Samuel states it is known that a few such stamps were sent as Specimens to the postal authorities of other territories (Ref. 3).

In 1983 Philip Beale wrote:

*I have met a former Treasurer on St Helena who has been a stamp collector and so asked him about the status of these Specimens. He explained that when stamps were withdrawn all complete sheets were destroyed but the Post Master was allowed to retain any part sheets. When he was there many years ago there were various former issues still in the Post Office. He himself received a copy of each one. To them was applied the handstamp (presumably SH2). Their status then is that of locally supplied Specimens provided at the discretion of the Post Master. They are not UPU Specimens. Of course, there are examples of such practice in other colonies. (Ref. 4).*

It appears, then, that these stamps were handstamped at Jamestown (and later, possibly, at Georgetown) by the Post Master or other official, and either presented to certain individuals, sent as Specimens to other postal authorities, or used for local publicity purposes. They will have been handstamped to prevent possible postal or fiscal use. Note that, unlike those stamps overprinted by the printers for UPU distribution, they may not have been from the first printing of an issue. As it appears that only part sheets were handstamped, the quantities will always remain unknown, and examples surviving must be variable in number and in some cases rare or even unique.

James Bendon in his *UPU Specimen Stamps* does not cover handstamps except to say that the National Postal Museum (now The British Postal Museum and Archive) in London has some stamps with the SH2 handstamp, and the Paris Postal Museum some with the SH1 handstamp (Ref. 5). His book is, however, useful for details of the history and workings of the UPU, and gives suggestions for further reading.

Samuel describes the first two handstamps as Types SH1 and SH2. For SH1, the vertical measurements are 2.5 mm for the 'S' and 1.5 mm for the remaining letters.

## Type SH1



Fig. 1

**SPECIMEN**

12 x 2.5/1.5 mm

Samuel (Ref. 6) gives the period of use as 1868 to 1879. I believe this refers to when the stamps on which the handstamp is found were first released, and not that the handstamps were actually applied to the stamps during these dates. It is not known what became of the handstamp itself, but it was probably disposed of in some way when Type SH2 arrived during 1888. There are therefore no reports of it being applied to Ascension stamps, and all St Helena stamps handstamped with SH1 are scarce or rare. In the following tables, I have listed the colour of the handstamp as Bk (black), Bl (blue or blue-black) or V (violet, shade and intensity vary). The source of the information is given in the notes.

### SH1 Check List

Date of Issue	Value	Watermark	Perforation	SG	SH1	Notes
1873	3d deep dull purple	Crown CC	12½	12	Bk	a
1868	4d carmine	Crown CC	12½	14	Bk	a
1868	5s orange	Crown CC	12½	20	Bk	b
1876	2d yellow	Crown CC	14 x 12½	22	Bk	c, Fig. 1
1876	3d purple	Crown CC	14 x 12½	23	Bk	b
1876	4d carmine	Crown CC	14 x 12½	24	Bk	b
1876	6d milky blue	Crown CC	14 x 12½	25	Bk	b
1880	1d lake	Crown CC	14	27	Bk	c
1880	2d yellow	Crown CC	14	28	Bk	d
1880	1s yellow-green	Crown CC	14	30	Bk	c
1885	½d green	Crown CA	14	35	Bk	e

#### Notes

- a Phoenix International Auction, 6 September 2003, Lots 98, 103
- b Samuel M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, p204-6, RPSL, London 1976
- c Samuel M., Bendon J. & Latto C., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948 - A Supplement*, p18, RPSL, London 1984
- d West R.B., "St Helena: Specimens and Other Points", *Cameo*, Volume 2 p142, WASC, July 1982
- e Author's collection

### Type SH2



Fig. 2

**SPECIMEN**

15.5 x 3.25 mm

Samuel (Ref. 6) gives the period of use as 1868 to 1922. The comment for SH1 regarding these dates also applies here, particularly so as it is now known that the SH2 handstamp was not sent to St Helena until 1888, as the invoice for it (1/6d) from A. Neuman & Co. of London is dated 7 April 1888 (Ref. 7). This is most probably the handstamp mentioned by Philip Beale in 1983, as it is known to have survived into the 1980s, despite Samuel's date of 1922.

The first reference I have found which updates Samuel appeared in 1986 when Roger West, the editor of the *St Helena Supplement*, illustrated copies of the cancellers and handstamps then in use at Jamestown. These included SH2, with a comment from the Post Master that: *this (hand)stamp still exists and is used on*

stamps which are put on display. It is not used on stamps sold to the public. This is a rubber stamp and has deteriorated slightly. (Ref. 8). On our 1998 visit to St Helena, when several members viewed the collection of stamps held at The Castle, Jamestown, the 1937 Coronation set was the latest to carry this handstamp (Ref. 9).

In 2002 Roger Morgan illustrated SH2 handstamped on the 1971 set commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Napoleon (Ref. 10), and thanks to a fellow member I can now illustrate its use on the 1970 set commemorating the Centenary of the British Red Cross (Fig. 3).

Samuel listed the SH2 handstamp on the Ascension set of 1922, but nothing later. In 2004 Bernard Hughes illustrated the 1½d value of the Ascension 1924 set with the handstamp in an article in *Wideawake Journal* together with, more interestingly, the full set of the 1963 'Bird' definitives (Ref. 11). These were mounted on a card marked in red ASCENSION DEFINITIVE - 42/11d per set; the card apparently from the Jamestown (or Georgetown?) Post Office (Fig. 4). This item was Lot 119 in the Grosvenor auction for 19 November 2003.

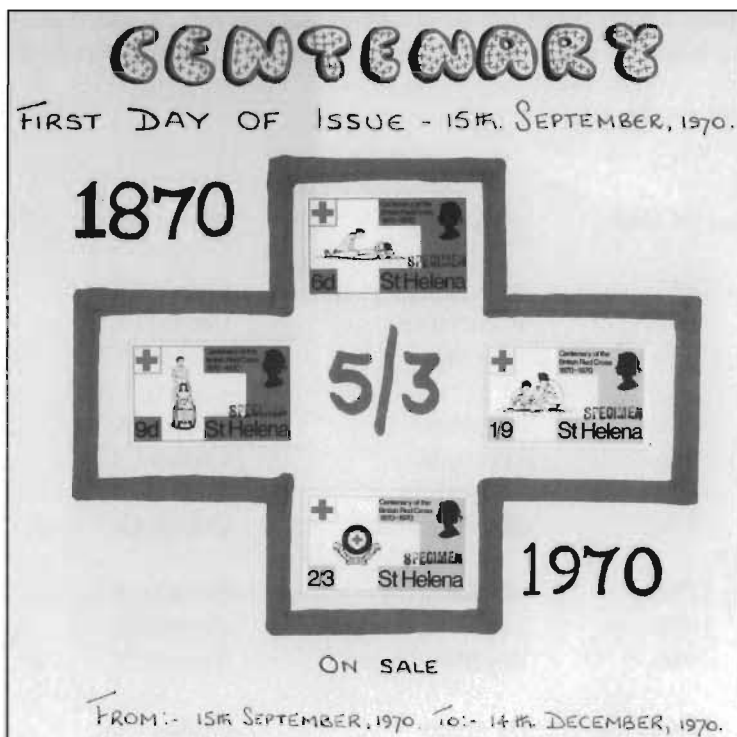


Fig. 3 St Helena 1970 set with SH2 handstamp, mounted on card



Fig. 4 Ascension 1963 set with SH2 handstamp, mounted on card

Displayed at the Post Office to encourage sales, these cards are sometimes referred to as 'Grille Cards'

During our 2002 visit to St Helena, a search was made at the Jamestown Post Office for the SH2 handstamp, but it was not found (Ref. 12). Maybe the illustration in the *St Helena Supplement No. 5* depicts its last use? Many of the stamps with the SH2 handstamp are fairly common (compared to SH1), but those from the Post Office notices for advertising purposes, and certain others, will be rare.

### SH2 Check List - Ascension

Date of Issue	Value(s)	Watermark	Perforation	SG	SH2	Notes
1922	½d to 3s (9 values)			1-9	V	a
1924	1½d rose-red; possibly other values?			12	V	b
1963	1d to £1 (14 values)			70-83	V	c, Fig. 4

### SH2 Check List - St Helena

Date of Issue	Value(s)	Watermark	Perforation	SG	SH2	Notes
1868	5s orange	Crown CC	12½	20	V	a, Fig. 2
1876	2d yellow	Crown CC	14 x 12½	22	V	d
1876	4d carmine	Crown CC	14 x 12½	24	V	a
1880	2d yellow	Crown CC	14	28	V	a
1880	1s yellow-green	Crown CC	14	30	V	a
1885	½d green	Crown CA	14	35	V	a
1887	1d red	Crown CA	14	37	V	a
1894	2d yellow	Crown CA	14	39	V	e
1893	2½d ultramarine	Crown CA	14	40	V	a
1887	3d deep mauve	Crown CA	14	41	V	a
1887	3d deep mauve	Crown CA	14	41	Bl	d, f
1894	4d sepia	Crown CA	14	43c	V	a
1887	6d grey	Crown CA	14	44	V	a
1897	½d green			46	V	g, h
1890-96	1d to 10d (6 values)			47-52	V	a
1902	½d green			53	V	a
1903	½d to 2s (6 values)			55-60	V	a
1908	2½d, 10s			64,71	V	a
1908	4d, 6d			66,67	V	d
1911	1d pictorial, printed all in red in error, unissued				V	a
1912-13	½d to 3s (10 values)			72-81	V	a
1912	4d, 6d			83,84	V	a
1913	4d			85	V	d
1916	War Tax 1d + 1d			87	V	a
1919	War Tax 1d + 1d			88	V	a
1922	1d, 1½d, 3d			89-91	V	i

*continued on page 76*

continued from page 75

## SH2 Check List - St Helena

Date of Issue	Value(s)	Watermark / Issue	SG	SH2	Notes
1923	4d	Mult. Crown CA	92	V	d
1922	1s6d, 2s6d, 5s, £1	Mult. Crown CA	93-96	V	a
1922	1d, 6d, 1s, 7s6d, 10s, 15s	Mult. Script CA	98/113	V	a
1923	½d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 8d	Mult. Script CA	97/105	V	d, j
1937	1d, 2d, 3d	Coronation of KGVI	128-130	Bk	k
1970	6d to 2/3d (4 values)	Cent. of British Red Cross	253-56	Bk	l, Fig. 3
1971	2p, 34p	150th Death Anniv. of Napoleon	279, 280	Bk	l
1972	2p to 12½p (4 values)	Military Equipment (3rd issue)	285-88	Bk	l, m

### Notes

- a Samuel M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, p204-6, RPSL, London 1976
- b Hughes B., "Ascension Specimens", *Wideawake Journal*, Volume 17, p1293-94, Ascension Study Circle, March 2004
- c Grosvenor Auction, 19 November 2003, Lot 119
- d Samuel M., Bendon J. & Latto C., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948 - A Supplement*, p18, RPSL, London 1984
- e Although reported a number of times, all examples I have examined have turned out to be SG 28
- f Also recorded with blue handstamp applied twice (note g)
- g Dyball V., "Rare St Helena Specimens", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 26*, p6-7, WASC, July 1996
- h Only 2 examples recorded, but this value also reported with manuscript 'SPECIMEN' (Ref. 13)
- i Phoenix International Auction, 6 September 2003, Lot 211
- j Samuel erroneously lists the ½d value as 1d. Roger B. West (note d in SH1 Check List) is correct
- k Burns B., "Stamp Collection at The Castle Archives", *Cameo*, Volume 8 p235, WASC, October 2004
- l Member's collection
- m Illustrated on front cover

Having gathered together all relevant references to the SH1 and SH2 handstamps that I have found, I now turn my attention to two other handstamps, neither of which are listed by Samuel or Bendon. Although doubt has been expressed over the genuineness of one of these, I now believe that both have good claims to having been used by authority. I continue the nomenclature of Samuel, and list them as SH3 and SH4.

### Type SH3



Fig. 5

# SPECIMEN

19 x 2.5 mm

My first reference to the SH3 handstamp appeared in a Grosvenor auction catalogue in 2003 (Ref. 14). Ascension Lot 118 was described: *1938-53, a set of eleven values... each value locally handstamped "SPECIMEN" in bold sans-serif type and affixed to Post Office notice headed "Ascension Postage Stamps" used to publicise stamps available for sale. BPA certificate (1993)* (Fig. 5).

So the BPA deemed the handstamp to be genuine, and this was brought to the attention of the Ascension Study Circle by Bernard Hughes (Ref. 11). However, I have been unable to find any further instances of its use, either on this or any other sets.

### SH3 Check List - Ascension

Date of Issue	Value	Perforation	SG	SH3	Notes
1938	½d black and violet	13½	38	Bk	a
1949	1d black and green	13	39d	Bk	a
1949	1½d black and rose-carmine	14	40d	Bk	a
1949	2d black and scarlet	14	41c	Bk	a
1944	3d black and grey	13	42b	Bk	a
1944	4d black and ultramarine	13	42d	Bk	a
1938	6d black and blue	13½	43	Bk	a, Fig. 5
1944	1/- black and sepia	13	44a	Bk	a
1938	2/6 black and deep carmine	13½	45	Bk	a
1938	5/- black and yellow-brown	13½	46	Bk	a
1944	10/- black and bright purple	13	47a	Bk	a

#### Notes

a Grosvenor Auction 15 May 2003, Lot 118

### Type SH4



Fig. 6

**SPECIMEN**

10.5 x 1.25 mm

This handstamp appears to have had more widespread use than SH3. However, it received a very poor report when discussed by Roger B. West in 1987 (Ref. 15):

*I was recently sent a copy of the 1953 1d definitive (St Helena) with a 'Specimen' handstamp (?)... The stamp in question was one of three low values, and that immediately aroused suspicion... That left the possibility that the item was locally handstamped. The typeface used was serified and not unlike SH1 except the 'S' was the same size as the rest of the letters... To the best of my knowledge, no record exists of a new handstamp on the Island, indeed SH2, introduced in 1867 (sic) is in fact still in use today. My conclusion was that the item was bogus - the handstamp probably made up of standard printers' type and crudely held together like a 'John Bull' outfit.*

Roger then discussed and showed a number of ways which the would-be forger of the day could create such items. How much easier it would be today! But from what we now know of this handstamp, I feel the owner of this short set was unfortunately, but understandably, misdirected.

The first reference to the SH4 handstamp that I have found appeared as Lot 934 in a Harmers of London auction of 8 November 1983: *St Helena - 1953 set handstamped "SPECIMEN" in small serified letters (12 x 1½ mm), part o.g., fine.* I viewed the set and placed a bid (unfortunately unsuccessful), but my notes indicate the handstamp was placed horizontally along the base of each stamp.

My next reference, this time for the 1956 Ascension set, was Lot 30 in a Phillips auction of 9 November 1989: *Ascension 1956 ½d - 10/- set handstamped SPECIMEN vertically in small serif capitals, presented to Miss L.G. Till in recognition of her contribution to this issue, together with the accompanying letter from the Government Secretary dated 31st December 1956 and its official envelope (damaged), also a letter*

dated 24th November 1954 expressing appreciation and commenting on choice of designs. This was fully described in a thought provoking article by Bernard Hughes in the *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 13* (Ref. 16):

*Although my bid proved unsuccessful, I saw the lot at the viewing. The 1956 letter was from "Secretariat, / The Castle, / St. Helena", bore the reference 8496/56, and was addressed to Miss L.G. Till, and read as follows: "Madam, / I am directed by the Governor to send you the enclosed souvenir set of the new issue of stamps for Ascension Island, and to ask you to accept it as a token of His Excellency's appreciation of your assistance in executing the drawings so successfully used in five of the denominations for the issue which was placed on sale on 19th November, 1956. / I am, Madam, / Your obedient servant / (signature ? Ruth B Sealey?) / Government Secretary." The 1954 letter refers to Miss Till's work in drawing a full set of designs... This most interesting Lot raises a number of questions:*

1. *...do the St Helena 1953 stamps, described (as forgeries) (Ref. 15), bear this overprint? If so, they are surely genuine...*
2. *Presumably a number of 'souvenir sets' must have been prepared in this way. How many (only a few, one would guess), and where are they now?*
3. *Who issued these Specimens? As SH1 and SH2 handstamps were not used, not the Post Office, presumably...*

In the Harmers of London auction of 27 May 1999, Lot 1417, a collection of St Helena 1937-1967, contained the 1953 set handstamped SPECIMEN Type SH4 diagonally in top left corner. This time my bid was successful (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



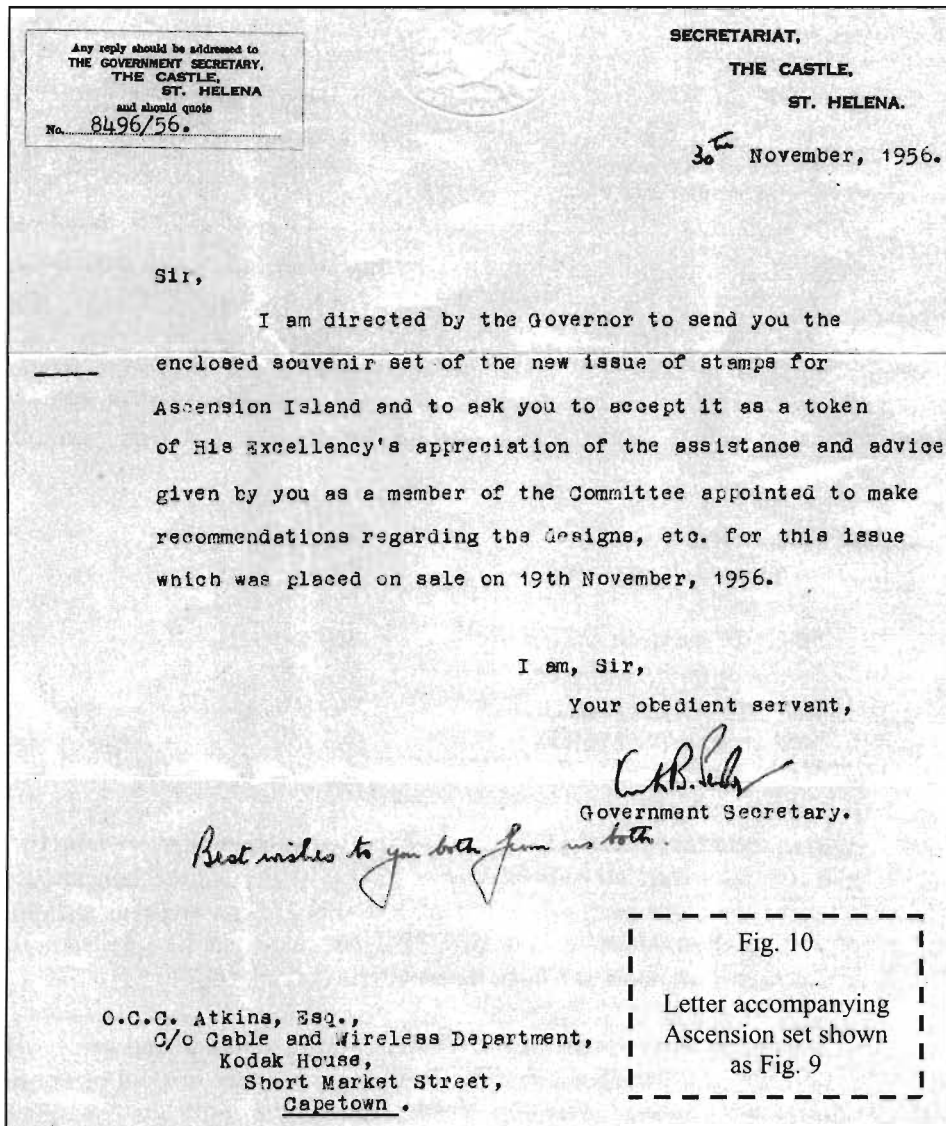
Fig. 9

The SH4 handstamp on a 1956 Ascension set from the Grosvenor auction of 15 May 2003 suggests that it may have been applied at the Post Office, but was this at Georgetown or Jamestown? Lot 119 was described: *1956 ½d to 10/- set, each value locally handstamped "SPECIMEN" in small serified type and affixed to Post Office notice used to publicise stamps available for sale. SG 57-69 S. BPA Certificate (1993) (Fig. 8).*

The Argyll Etkin auction of 4 November 2004 included Lot 871: *St Helena - 1961 Definitive set of 14 affixed to card, each stamp handstamped by tiny "SPECIMEN" (9½ x 1 mm)... Believed to have been a display card from the St Helena Post Office during the period of issue, and therefore almost certainly unique. With BPA Certificate (1993) (Fig. 6).*

Courtesy of a WASC member, I can now report and illustrate another 1956 Ascension set handstamped with SH4 (Fig. 9), which is accompanied by a letter similar to that recorded by Bernard Hughes above. A close look at Figures 8 and 9 will show that, although the handstamps are similarly positioned, and therefore probably applied by the same person at the same time, they are different examples. In fig. 9, the 'I' of 'SPECIMEN' is further in the tunny's mouth, and the serif of the 'N' is to the left of the top of the '4' of 4d. The letter accompanying the set is illustrated opposite (Fig. 10).

Note that, apart from the date and slight alteration to the wording, it is very similar to that described by Bernard, and I can see no reason why either are anything other than genuine. The SH4 handstamp therefore can surely be classed as having been used with authority. As it is also found on the so-called grille cards, I believe it was probably applied at the Jamestown Post Office.



#### SH4 Check List - Ascension

Date of Issue	Values	SG	SH4	Notes
1956	½d to 10s (13 values)	57-69	Bk	a, Figs. 8,9

#### SH4 Check List - St Helena

Date of Issue	Values	SG	SH4	Notes
1953	½d to 10s (13 values)	153-165	Bk	b, Fig. 7
1956	3d, 4d, 6d	166-168	Bk	c
1961	1d to £1 (14 values)	176-189	Bk	d, Fig. 6

#### Notes

- a Phillips Auction, 9 November 1989, Lot 30  
Grosvenor Auction, 15 May 2003, Lot 119  
Member's collection
- b Harmers of London Auction, 8 November 1983, Lot 934  
*St Helena Supplement No. 8*, p18-19, WASC, July 1987 (3 low values)  
Harmers of London Auction, 27 May 1999, Lot 1417
- c Member's collection
- d Argyll Etkin Auction, 4 November 2004, Lot 871

## Discussion and Conclusions

The latest issue recorded with the Type SH1 handstamp is the halfpenny green issued in 1885. All stamps with SH1 are scarce or rare. SH2 handstamp was sent to St Helena during 1888, so it appears this was a direct replacement for SH1, either because it had become unusable, mislaid, or simply for the need to have a more prominent indication of the stamps Specimen status.

Type SH2 is first recorded on the 1868 five shillings orange. However, this value is believed to have been on sale until the end of the reign, so the handstamp would have been applied during 1888 or later. The handstamp may have been applied to stamps to send to other countries before St Helena joined the UPU in 1896, and we also know it was used on any remaining part sheets at the discretion of the Post Master. Numbers handstamped must therefore be variable, and only two examples on the 1897 halfpenny green have been reported. Of the St Helena stamps which may be expected to exist with Type SH2, I have not recorded the following:

1902 1d carmine	SG 54
1913 6d dull and deep purple	SG 86
1927 5d green and deep carmine/green	SG 103
1927 1/6d grey and green/green	SG 107
1927 2/- purple and blue/blue	SG 108
1927 2/6d grey and red/yellow	SG 109
1927 5/- grey and green/yellow	SG 110

Of interest is the inclusion in the above list of SG 54. As this particular stamp had sold out by 1910 (thereby instigating the printing of the one penny all red pictorial of 1911), I believe the examples of the halfpenny value with this handstamp (SG 53) date from this late period. The St Helena archives at Jamestown has the halfpenny and all red one penny (both blocks of four with SH2) mounted side by side, as illustrated on page 232 of *Cameo* 63 (Ref. 9), suggesting the Post Office no longer held stocks of SG 54.

Apart from those listed above, all other values of the 'Badge' set i.e. those issued prior to 1927, do exist with SH2 handstamp. This leads me to suggest that the handstamp became mislaid or unusable sometime before 1927. Even at the archive collection at The Castle, Jamestown, only the four pence and fifteen shillings values of the set have the handstamp, and interestingly these are the only two values to have been withdrawn from sale in 1927 (Ref. 17). However, Type SH2 was used again for the 1937 Coronation set, and following a break of 26 years it resurfaced in 1963 for the Ascension definitives, and was still in use during the 1980s.

Type SH3 has only been recorded on the KG VI definitive set of Ascension for display purposes. As some 1949 printings were used, the handstamp probably dates from the early 1950s. It may, of course, have been applied at St Helena for display at the Jamestown Post Office as Ascension stamps were, and still are, available there.

There are now at least six recorded sets from Ascension and St Helena having the Type SH4 handstamp. Two of the 1956 sets of Ascension have accompanying letters proving their status, and I now firmly believe that this handstamp was applied with authority, probably by the Post Master at Jamestown.

It is interesting to note that there are no instances of Types SH2, SH3 and SH4 having been applied to the same stamp issue. This suggests to me that whenever the use of a handstamp was required, either only one was available at the time, or that each Post Master had a preferred choice.

Although we will never know the full story, consider the following scenario. Suppose that the SH2 handstamp was becoming worn or 'mislaid' sometime after its use on the 1937 Coronation set. A new type, SH3, was acquired and used on the 1938 Ascension definitives around 1950. This was followed by SH4, used for the 1953 St Helena definitives, the 1956 Ascension definitives and St Helena Centenary set, and finally (as far as we know), the 1961 St Helena definitives. However, when a handstamp for the 1963 Ascension definitives and later commemorative sets of St Helena was required, handstamp SH2 was

'rediscovered', and put into use again. This may have been because SH4 was by now in a worse state than SH2, or was the preferred choice in much the same way that SH2 had replaced SH1 eighty years earlier. I leave it to you, dear reader, to judge this hypothesis!

In order to complete this survey, I illustrate below (Fig. 11), again courtesy of a member, a Specimen 'overprint' on the three values of the St Helena 1937 Coronation set. This may have been printed rather than handstamped. Until further information or copies are reported I believe this should be classed as of dubious origin. But as we have seen with SH4, this opinion may eventually be reconsidered!



**SPECIMEN**

11.5 x 2.25 mm

Fig. 11

I have not included details of handstamps applied to the stamps of Tristan da Cunha, simply because there are no references in either Samuel or Bendon, and I have no information at all. Can any reader report any for this island, or add to the listings for Ascension or St Helena detailed here?

#### References

- 1 Samuel M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, p26, RPSL, London 1976
- 2 Ibid., p31
- 3 Ibid., p56
- 4 West R.B., "Handstamped Specimens", *St Helena Supplement No. 1*, p10, WASC, July 1983
- 5 Bendon J., *UPU Specimen Stamps*, p174, James Bendon, Limassol Cyprus 1988
- 6 Samuel M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, p204-6, RPSL, London 1976
- 7 Johnson R., "Invoice for 'SPECIMEN' Handstamp", *Cameo*, Volume 8 p49, WASC, October 2003
- 8 West R.B., "Specimen Handstamps", *St Helena Supplement No. 5*, p31, WASC, January 1986
- 9 Burns B., "Stamp Collection at The Castle Archives", *Cameo*, Volume 8 p235, WASC, October 2004
- 10 Morgan R., "Handstamped 'Specimen'", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 37*, p30, WASC, January 2002
- 11 Hughes B., "Ascension Specimens", *Wideawake Journal*, Volume 17, p1293-4, Ascension Study Circle, March 2004
- 12 Scrine A., "Discussion with the St Helena Postmistress", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 38*, p13, WASC, July 2002
- 13 Mabbett B., "QV Halfpenny Key Type manuscript Specimen", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 32*, p32, WASC, July 1999
- 14 Grosvenor Auction 15 May 2003, Lot 118
- 15 West R.B., "Forged Specimen Stamps", *St Helena Supplement No. 8*, p18-19, WASC, July 1987
- 16 Hughes B., "Ascension 1956 Specimens", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 13*, p13, WASC, January 1990
- 17 Darnton R.E., "St Helena: Shades of the Series 1922-27", *Stamp Collecting*, 3 June 1944



## St Helena KGV 'Badge' Watermark Varieties

### Barry Burns

Following the article on page 56 of *Cameo* 65, I have received correspondence from a member who has the halfpenny value with inverted watermark in two distinct shades of the vignette, suggesting this variety may have occurred during at least two printings.

The same member also reports the three halfpence variety in one of the rose-red shades with reversed watermark. Although Gibbons list this stamp with inverted watermark (SG 99dw), this is the first recording of the watermark reversed. The stamp has a 'good' RPSL certificate.

# Sierra Leone QV Five Shilling Forgery

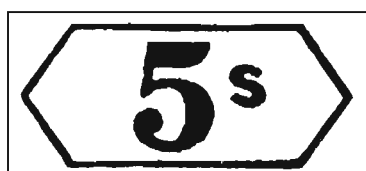
Frank Walton FRPSL

Although Philip Beale (Ref. 1) mentions that forgeries exist for the 2s and 5s values of the second key plate issue, in 20 years of collecting I cannot recall seeing an example of either before. However, I was fortunate enough to obtain a 'used' copy of the 5s value from ebay.

The stamp is a brighter green shade than the genuine, but the carmine is reasonably matched. The watermark and perforation are correct, suggesting that a real stamp from one of the colonies that used this design was used as a 'host' by the forger. The most apparent difference is in the shape of the bottom tail of the '5' in the duty plate.

The 'postmark' is realistic, but I suspect that this too is fabricated. The readable portion suggests 'FREETOWN / A / MR ?? / ?? / SIERRA LEONE'.

The whole stamp illustrations are at 200%, and the duty plate only illustrations are at 400%.



Forgery (left) and Genuine (right)

Reference

1 Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p137, RPSL, London 1988



## 1/4d at St Helena - Accountancy or Charge Mark?

Barry Burns, Bernard Mabbett and Robert Johnson FRPSL

The cover illustrated as Figure 1 was described by Jeremy Martin and Bernard Mabbett in *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 20* (Ref. 1), and it surfaced again on the internet in late 2004. It was sent from Bordeaux, France on 13 November 1877, and franked with French stamps totaling 81 centimes. It is addressed to a Ship's Captain, c/o the French Consulate at St Helena and shows a manuscript '10' and two line handstamp BRITISH / FOREIGN; the figures 5/5 being added in manuscript alongside. Of particular interest is the two line handstamp SHIP PASSED PREVIOUS TO / RECEIPT (Mabbett Type 1) in black. This is the only recorded example of this mark on a cover passing through St Helena, and suggestions as to

*continued on page 84*

# HARMERS

ESTABLISHED 1918

## Fine South African Material at All World Auctions



South West Africa: £1 pale olive-green and red, bilingual pairs from the upper-left, upper-right, lower-left and lower-right corners of the sheet, each with Plate number "1". u.m. or o.g., fine.  
**Sold at recent Harmers auction for £1,411**

Since 1918 the name "Harmers" has been synonymous with all that is best in philatelic auctions. Harmers maintains its place in the heart of the philatelic world as leading auctioneers by offering the smaller collector or vendor as well as the larger an unparalleled service with unmatched results. Our regular auctions, ten or more a year, attract bidders and vendors from all over the world.

Our mission is simple: to offer the best material to the largest number of people and to secure the best prices for our vendors. The value added benefits of buying and selling through Harmers of London come from a company determined to offer you the service that best suits your individual needs.

**We are currently accepting material for our future 2005 auctions. If you have a collection and would like to know it's value, please don't hesitate to contact our team for a free valuation. Our experts give daily valuations at our London offices and also carry out regional valuation days. Contact our team of unrivalled experts to find out how you can achieve the best price for your collection.**

### High Prices

For many collectors, selling via Harmers auctions provides the best opportunity for reaching the highest number of potential purchasers and for realising the highest return.

### Diversity

Harmers offer a wide range of material, countries from A - Z and specialized one owner auctions. Harmers experience and knowledge of all areas of the philatelic market is at your disposal.

### Valuations

Verbal valuations are free, and you may call at the office during normal office hours for a no-commitment assessment of the value of your collection.

Philatelic Auctioneers  
Experts and Valuers

Harmers, No. 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY  
Tel: 020 8747 6100 Fax: 020 8996 0649  
auctions@harmers.demon.co.uk www.harmers.com



continued from page 82

where it was applied include the UK, Jamestown Post Office and the French Consulate at Jamestown, although Bernard now believes it likely to have been applied in the UK (Ref. 2). The cover also bears a small triangular Tax mark, and the '1/4' marking in heavy manuscript. If the latter was a tax or charge marking, why was it applied? The cover appears to have sufficient postage from France to St Helena, or was it indicative of a possible return to France? There is no evidence of such a return.



Fig. 1 Bordeaux to St Helena 1877

When the cover was brought to my attention by Robert Johnson, I thought the distinctive 1/4 mark was familiar. Sure enough, a search through the Burns 'den' revealed the cover illustrated as Figure 2.



Fig. 2 Azores to St Helena 1878

By coincidence(?), this is also addressed to a Ship's Captain at St Helena, this time of the Bark "Wanderer". It was posted on 31 October 1878 from Angra do Herismo, and franked with an Azores 50 reis adhesive. It bears a circular Tax mark with '25' in manuscript alongside and, in place of the BRITISH / FOREIGN handstamp, has *a/b* in blue manuscript, and again with the figures *5/5* added alongside. The cover is

backstamped LISBOA/11/11/78 in black, and LONDON/CE/NO 16/78 in red. It was received at St Helena 22 December 1878, where I believe the 1/4 manuscript mark was applied. Until I saw the Bordeaux cover I thought this was simply a conversion from '25' into sterling currency.

Bernard, Robert and I have tried to work out the reasoning behind the 1/4 mark, bearing in mind that each cover could have different explanations. So far, we have not reached satisfactory answers. Can any reader offer any guidance or, even better, full explanations? The following points should be borne in mind:-

Great Britain, being a founder member, had joined the UPU 1 July 1875, and Portugal, including the Azores, also joined on this date. France joined 1 January 1876, but St Helena not until 1 October 1896 (Ref. 3). So at the time of these covers, all the territories involved were members of the UPU except St Helena.

From 1 April 1877, postage on prepaid letters for St Helena from the UK when sent by Mail Packet was 1s per 1/2oz. Unpaid and insufficiently paid letters charged 1s each, in addition to the deficient postage. By Private Ship the rate was 4d per 1/2oz, and unpaid or insufficiently paid letters being charged an additional 4d (Ref. 4).

The 5/5 notation was one that preceded UPU arrangements, in fact dating back to the 1840s, and apparently used in these cases because of St Helena's non membership.

References

- 1 Mabbett B., "For the Record", *St Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 20*, p17, WASC, July 1993
- 2 Mabbett B., *St Helena; The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000*, p80, WASC, Dronfield, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2002
- 3 Bendon J., *UPU Specimen Stamps*, p237-259, James Bendon, Limassol Cyprus 1988
- 4 Beale P.O. & Walton F.L., *West African GPO Postal Notices of the Nineteenth Century*, p131, WASC, Dronfield 2001



*Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements*

<b>OFFERS FROM STOCK</b>			
<b>ASCENSION.</b> 1922 set of 9 overprinted 'SPECIMEN' Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 1s/9s	<b>£375</b>	<b>NIGER COAST.</b> 1893 1/- on 2d (Type 'A') top marginal used on piece. Believed unique. Ex Danson. SG 37(A).	<b>£1500</b>
<b>BIAFRA.</b> 1968 2/6 corner example red overprint omitted. Unmounted mint. SG 13a	<b>£100</b>	<b>NIGER COAST.</b> 1893 1/- on 2d (Type 'B') with second 'l' and 'n' of 'Shilling' omitted. Very fine used. SG 37(B).	<b>£400</b>
<b>GAMBIA.</b> 1881 (CC upright: Comb Perf) 1/2d orange in complete sheet of 15. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 11B.	<b>£300</b>	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1903 2d on bluish paper. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. (previously SG 57a).	<b>£100</b>
<b>GAMBIA.</b> 1909 (MCA) 5d with 'Glover flaw'. Very fine mint. SG 77a.	<b>£120</b>	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1916 1/2d wartime printing on thick paper. A complete sheet of 60. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 72var.	<b>£300</b>
<b>GAMBIA.</b> 1912 1/6 violet and green with split 'A'. Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 98a.	<b>£275</b>	<b>ST HELENA.</b> 1927 5d Badge with cleft rock. Very fine used with 'MR 23 28' c.d.s. SG 103c.	<b>£130</b>
<b>GOLD COAST.</b> 1875 4d magenta (Perf 12 1/2). Very fine mint. Rare this fine. RPS Cert. Ex Ashanti. SG 2.	<b>£250</b>	<b>TOGO.</b> 1914 80pf black and carmine/rose. Very fine used with LOME c.d.s. SG H9.	<b>£150</b>
<b>GOLD COAST.</b> 1913 1d imperf printer's sample in green optd 'SPECIMEN' in block of four affixed to record card.	<b>£275</b>	<b>TOGO.</b> 1915 20/- showing the small 'F' in 'FRENCH'. Very fine mint. SG H46a.	<b>£175</b>
<i>The above is a selection from my extensive British Commonwealth stock. All items available on approval (subject unsold). Major credit cards accepted. Illustrated lists on request (please advise collecting interests). Wants lists invited.</i>			
<b>MARK HARVEY</b>			
P O BOX 50			
HASLEMERE			
SURREY GU27 1WX			
Tel/Fax (01428) 642702			
e-mail: mark@surreystamps.com			

# Merrell Correspondence from West Africa

## Arthur Watkins and Barry Burns

Arthur Watkins has provided details of a 1916 postcard from Lome, Togo, and three covers of 1938 from the Gold Coast, all addressed to members of the Merrell family. The postcard, showing the Katholische Kirche at Lome, was sent 6 September 1916 although the message appears to be dated 6/8/12 as shown in Fig. 1. It is signed 'RBM' and addressed to a Miss Merrell, V.A.D. (?) at a hospital at Rouen in France. Miss Merrell was presumably a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment with the British Expeditionary Force.

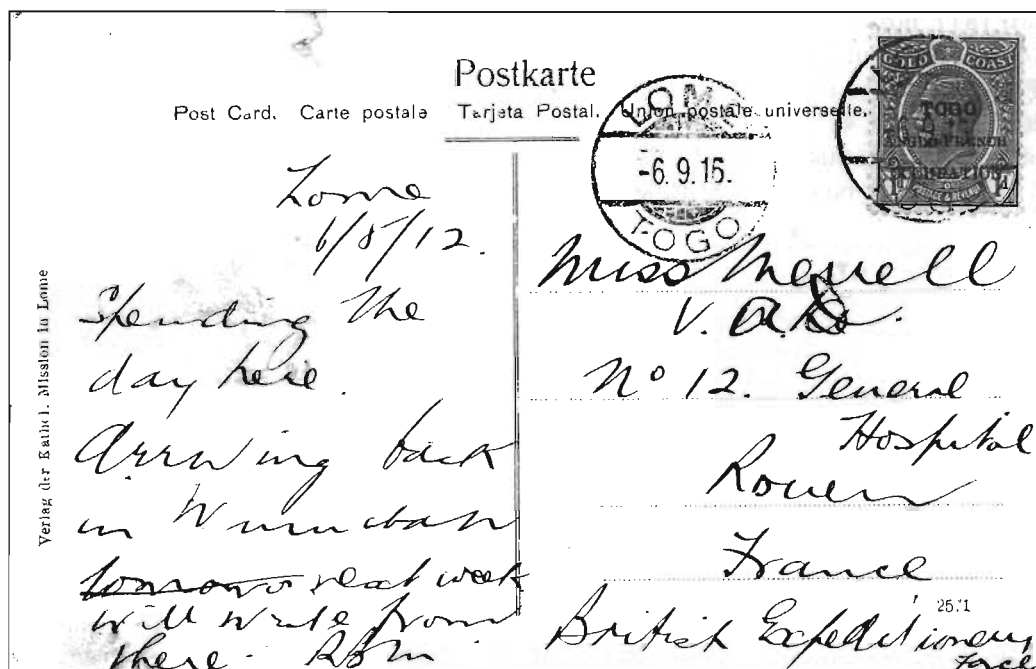


Fig. 1 Postcard from Lome, Togo, signed 'RBM'

Moving on some 22 years, Fig. 2 shows a cover posted at Saltpond, Gold Coast 26 August 1938 'via French AeroMaritime via France'. This is addressed to a Mrs. R.B. Merrell at Wallasey, Cheshire, but redirected to Leeds with the endorsement 'For Edward'. The cover is backstamped 2 September 1938 at Wallasey.

A further cover, not illustrated, but apparently in the same handwriting, was sent from Saltpond 16 September 1938 to the same addressee. This cover was also sent via French AeroMaritime but was not redirected. Both covers are franked with 3d and 1/- values of the Gold Coast 1938 set, line perf. of course.

Figure 3 shows a cover sent from Accra by 'Air Mail Imperial' 21 September 1938 at 1/- rate. This is addressed to Mr R.B. Merrell at Gloucester, England, in different writing to the previous covers. It is backstamped 29 September 1938 at Gloucester, redirected to the same Leeds address (postmark of 30 September), and redirected again to the address at Wallasey. The cover carries a pencil note 'Please keep env. for John'.

The three covers raise a couple of interesting points concerning the Merrell family. Is the addressee of the third cover the same 'RBM' of the 1916 postcard? Presumably Mrs. R.B. Merrell at Wallasey was the wife of RBM. Where Edward and John their sons? Arthur Watkins thinks that John lived at Wallasey, and further correspondence showed he was a doctor and that a Skipton (Yorkshire) address for him crops up later.

Are there any further Merrell covers or correspondence out there to fill in the details?

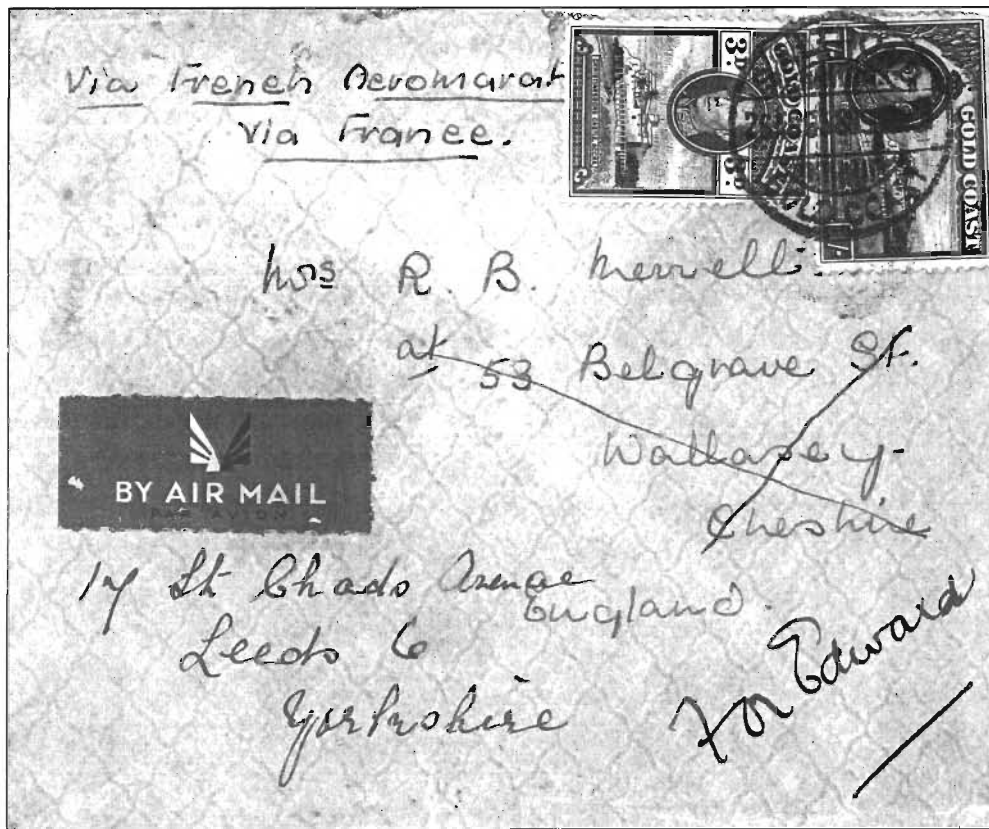


Fig. 2  
Saltpond to Mrs. R.B. Merrell at Wallasey 26 August 1938

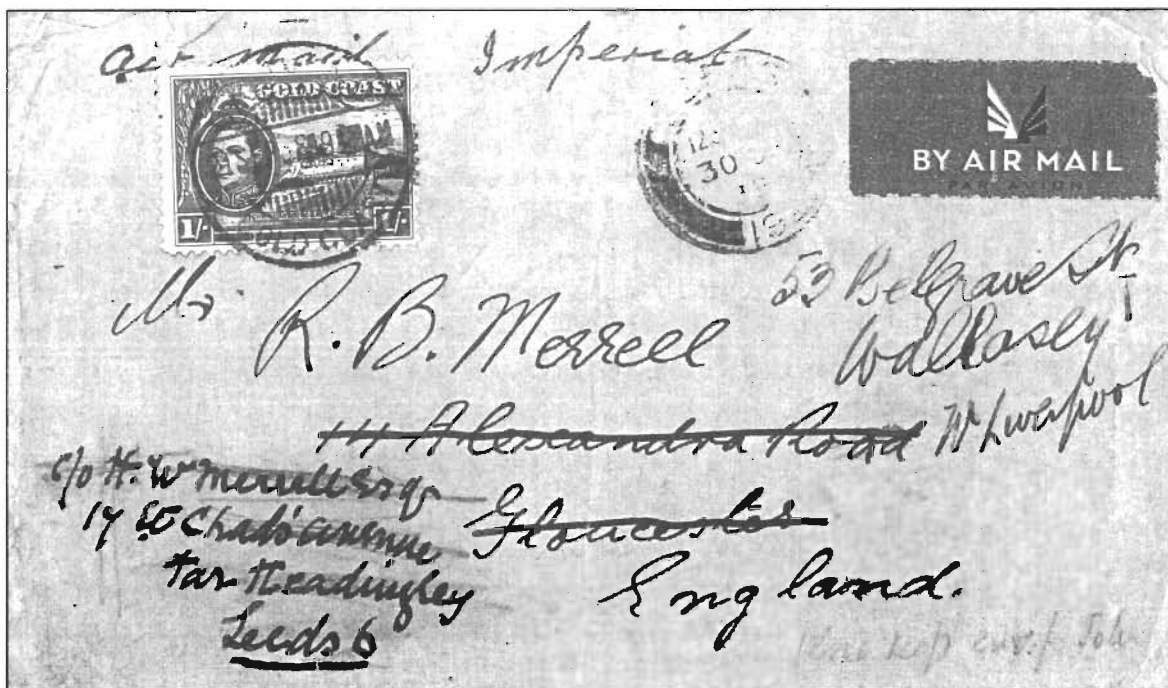


Fig. 3  
Accra to Mr R.B. Merrell at Gloucester 21 September 1938



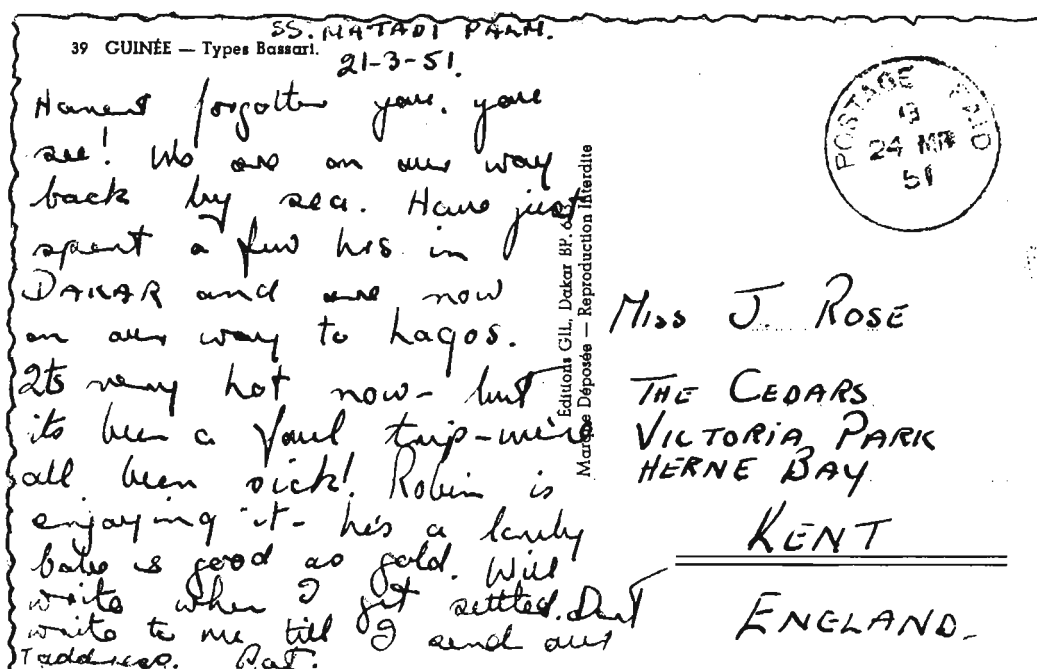
# Nigeria Postage Paid 1951

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

This picture postcard was written on board the SS *Matadi Palm* on 21 March 1951. Part of the message reads 'Have just spent a few hrs in Dakar and am now on the way to Lagos'.

The card is stampless. In red is a POSTAGE PAID mark of 24 MR 51, just three days after the written message. I cannot trace this mark in either Sierra Leone or Gold Coast reference books and it does not appear in Neville Jones' magnum opus. Tony Plumbe, our Nigeria Editor, has not seen it before.

Members ideas would be welcome.

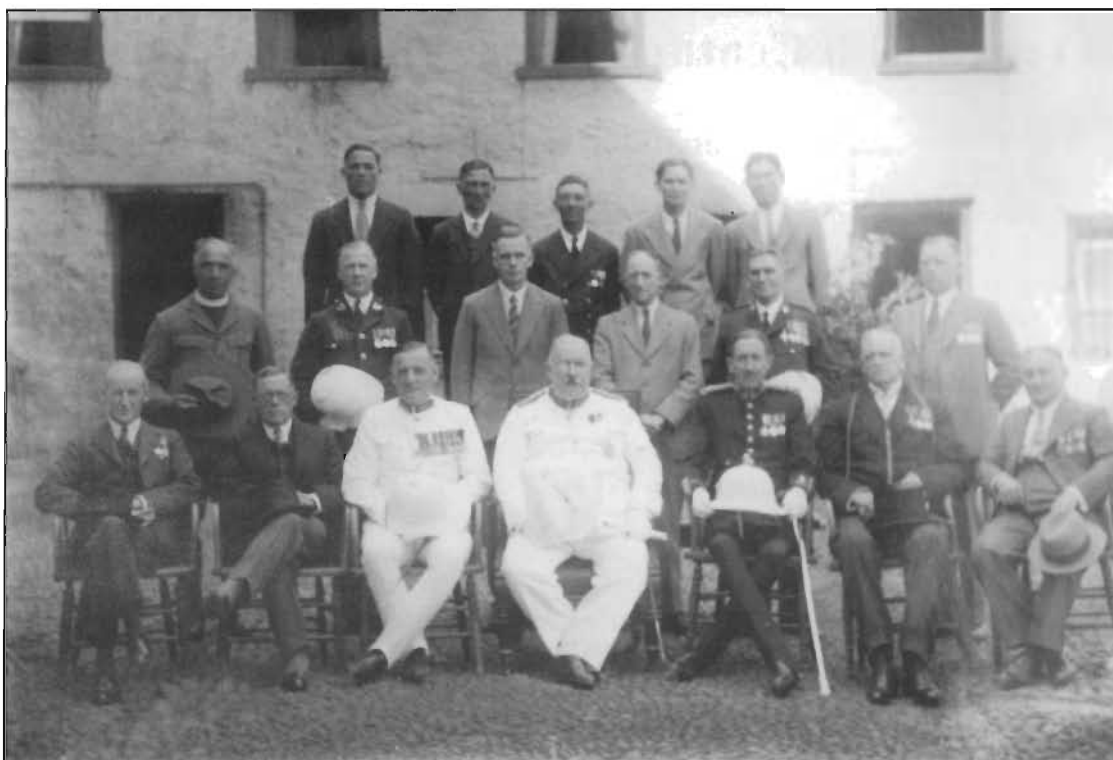


## Captain R. Edmondson at St Helena

Trevor Hearl

The front cover of *Cameo* 63 (October 2004) showed a cover of 1935 from Ascension Island to Captain R. Edmondson at St Helena.

Captain Robert Armstrong Edmondson of the Royal Marines was the Officer i/c Troops on the Island from 1934 to 1937, and as such was a member of the Executive Council. In 1937 he was, on that account, awarded the King's Coronation Medal, but come the Coronation celebration he had been posted away, and was not photographed with the rest of the recipients and senior government officers - Major S.A. Field had then succeeded to the post, though not to the Executive Council till later. I have a sepia print photograph of them all, taken from Philip Gosse's *St Helena Scrapbook* and the only photograph I know of a complete set of St Helena Government officials. It is rare in St Helena history to be able to put a face to a name. Of interest to *Cameo* readers is that the Postmaster, George Ernest Moss, ISO is third from right in the centre row.



**King George VI Coronation, 12 May 1937  
Recipients of the Coronation Medal at St Helena**

**Back Row:**

- \* Mr. W.E. Henry, Government Printer  
Mr. Cecil James George, Chief Clerk, Secretariat  
Mr. Robert Bizarre, Chief Clerk & Supervisor, Treasury & Customs, and Harbour Master
- \* Mr. S.N. Peters
- \* Mr. A. Steevens

**Centre Row:**

- Canon Laurence Chase Walcott (representing the Rt. Rev. Charles Arthur William Aylen, Bishop of St Helena)
- \* Mr. F. Brett  
Mr. Kenneth Edward Toms, Agricultural & Forestry Officer  
Mr. George Ernest Moss, ISO, Clerk of Council & Postmaster  
Mr. Alfred Nicholls, MBE, Superintendent of Police & Gaols  
Mr. William Henry Hurn, Clerk of Works

**Front Row:**

- Dr. John Gray, MD, Senior Medical Officer
- The Honourable Homfray Welby Solomon, OBE, Member of the Executive Council who, 'representing this Colony at the Coronation Ceremony, will receive a Medal in England'
- Honourable Geoffrey Charles Kitching, OBE, Member of Executive Council (Government Secretary)
- His Excellency Sir Steuart Spencer Davis, Kt., CMG, Governor and Commander-in-Chief
- Major S.A. Field, Royal Marines (representing Honourable Robert Armstrong Edmondson, Captain RM, Member, Executive Council)
- Honourable Frederick George Nelson Deason, OBE, Member of Executive Council
- Mr. Frederick Jarrett, Treasurer & Collector of Customs

**Absent recipients:**

- Honourable Percy Edwin Bunker, Member of Executive Council (Magistrate, Manager of Cable & Wireless, Ascension Island)
- Mrs. Jessie Elizabeth Deason, Member, Board of Education
- Honourable Frederick Ralph Thorpe, Member, Executive Council

\* These members of the Coronation party, in addition to Canon Walcott and Major Field, were NOT recipients of His Majesty's Coronation Medal.

# French 19th Century Coastal Shipping Service

John Sacher FRPSL

John Mayne writes about a Benin - Lagos Vapeur service provided by the SS *Eloby* (*Cameo* 65, page 58). There is an illustration of a Lagos 1d postcard cancelled 'SS Eloby' in manuscript and dated 30 January 1898 addressed to Porto Novo on page 429 of *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region*, together with another stamp cancelled SS *Lagos*. We assumed that such mail was handed to the purser and cancelled on board because there were no land based offices available where the letters were picked up. This card in *Cameo* indicates that some mail carried in this way went through the formal postal services.

There is also another type of French coastal mail service that operated in West Africa, in this case Senegal. There is one cover known with the handstamp 'AVISO POSTAL SENEGAL' (illustrated at 95%). This is from Dakar cancelled on 13 September 1891. The AVISO shipping mark is for 16 September and the letter then travelled per Ligne J (18 September) to France and Switzerland. The only information I have found about this mark was in notes written by M. Schatski and sent to me by Maurice Behr in 1979. He stated that a decree of 1 May 1891 appointed an agent to be responsible for a despatch-boat for the receipt and dispatch of mail between Sénégal and Rivière du Sud (later Guinée Française). Robert G. Stone states that the mark was used between 1886 and 1892, but I am not aware of any evidence for this and if it was introduced following the 1891 decree it seems unlikely that this was true.



❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## Censorship of Post-War Nigerian Mail to Germany

Tony Plumble

Nigerian mail censored in the British Sector of post-Second World War Germany is uncommon. Illustrated as Figures 1 and 2 (at 85%) are the two items so far recorded.

The first was sent by a Mr. Okon from the Co-operative Office in Uyo to Cologne postmarked on 13 August 1947. The British Opened by Examiner 9168 P.C.90 tape at left is tied by a dark violet 32mm single circle crown number 1043 censorship cachet. The sender apparently knew the letter would be censored as it is inscribed 'Language - English' on the reverse. The cover is slightly foreshortened at the right.

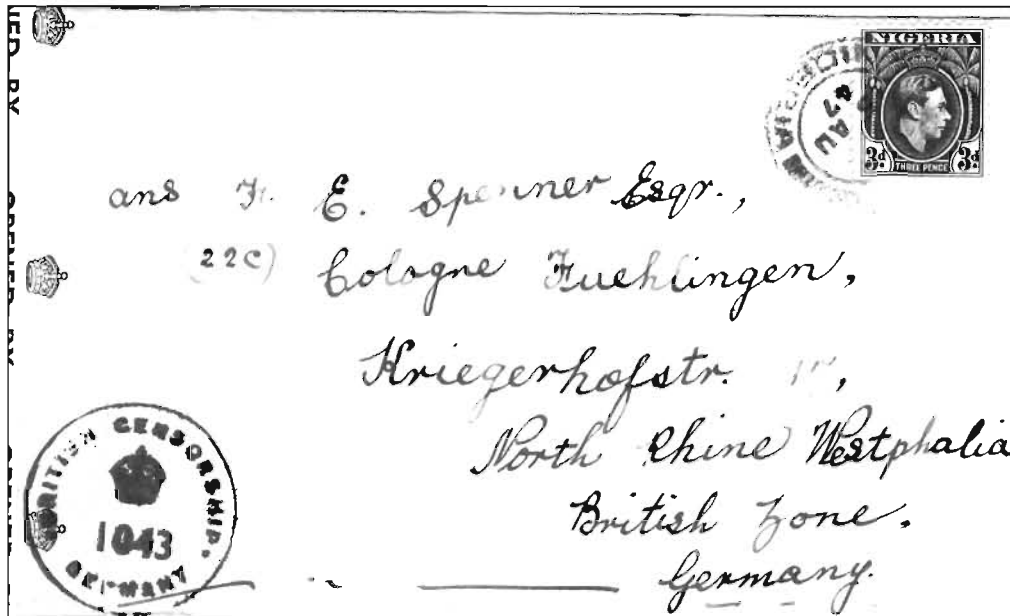


Fig. 1 Uyo to Cologne

The second example (Fig. 2) is part of a KGVI aerogramme sent apparently from Lagos to Berlin by surface as the 'Air Letter' printing is crossed through and it is franked at the 2d rate. Cancelled in Lagos on 24 July 1947, this has the British Opened by Examiner 9211 tape on two sides tied by a violet 32mm single circle crown number 2759 censorship cachet, and is backstamped on 1 August 1947 with a double-ring (1) Berlin N W 7 postmark. This coincides with the Berlin blockade times. The inside panels are unfortunately blank. Given the address and the pencilled inscription below the address, it is unlikely the letter was delivered to its intended recipient. Both items appear to be commercial mail.



Fig. 2

Lagos to Berlin,  
by surface mail?

#### References

- Plumbe A.J., "Berlin Blockade Censorship", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p119, WASC, January 2002
- Plumbe A.J., "Nigerian Covers Censored in Austria", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p319, WASC, May 2003

# Biafra Update The Early Mails

Dudley Prestedge

What follows is an up-dated expansion of section 2.5 'Late Use of Nigerian Stamps' to my book (Ref. 1). It has been compiled with the help of Jeremy Martin FRPSL.

Biafra declared independence on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1967. Postal provisions had not been made to mark this declaration and it was at least a month before the first affects of this were apparent when the Postage Paid cachets were introduced to bolster the lack of Nigerian stamps that were still being used.



The earliest recorded cover using Nigerian stamps is illustrated left (Fig. 1) and is dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 1967. There are possibly other covers in existence with earlier dates and they would probably have been considered relatively unimportant at the time and not worth collecting.

Those that have survived were probably collected for the addresses of the recipients as the name Biafra was beginning to be used by commercial organisations. The local newspaper, the Eastern Star became the Biafra Sun and the cover illustrated right as Figure 2 is dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1967.

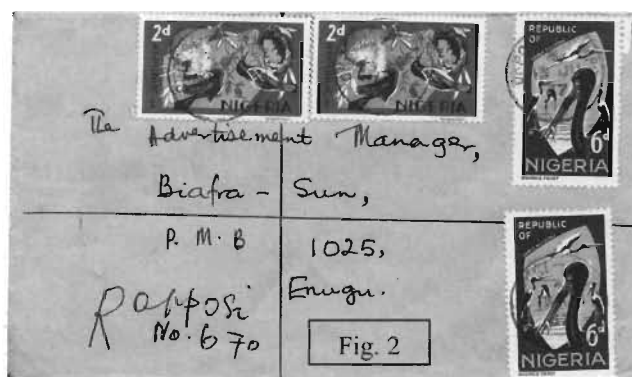


Fig. 3

Meanwhile the Nigerian Printing Corporation swiftly became the Biafra Printing Corporation, as shown on the cover illustrated as Figure 3, dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 1967.

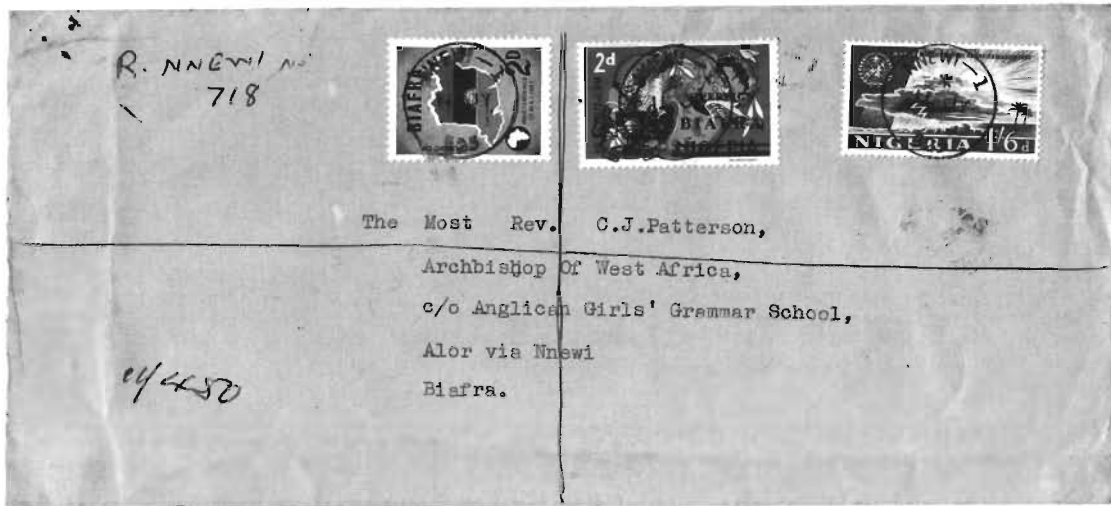


Fig. 4

Nigerian stamps were used for some months alongside the cachets until the first Biafran issues were made early in 1968. Even after these were issued, Nigerian stamps were still being used for full postage or used in conjunction with the Biafran issues making for some interesting covers with the various combinations of stamps (Fig. 4).

The latest recorded cover using Nigerian stamps only is illustrated right (Fig. 5) dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 1967.

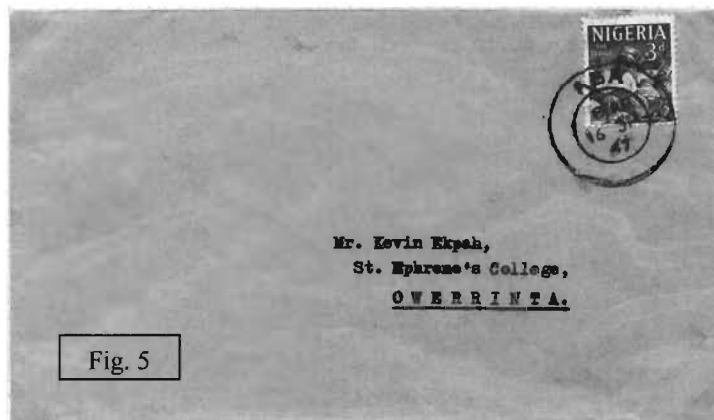


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Whilst most hand cancellers suffered from the lack of date slugs after 1967, machine cancellers had an inbuilt capability of being updated each year, however, the basic design incorporating Nigeria was fixed. Barclays Bank overcame this problem by using a Biafra rubber stamp and so covers similar to the one illustrated (Fig. 6) are not uncommon but still very collectable.

Reference

- 1 Prestedge D., *The Stamps, History and Postal History of the Rebel State during the Nigerian Civil War*, WASC, Dronfield 2000

# The Adrian Cadbury Gold Coast and Nigerias Sale

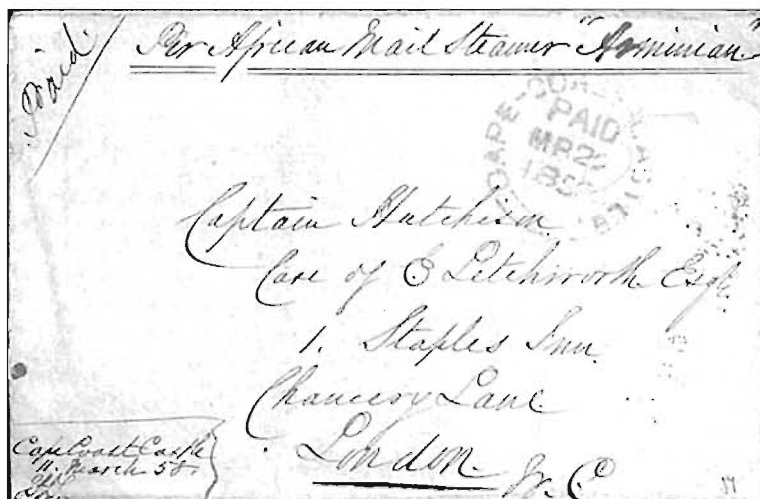
Jeremy Martin FRPSL and Tony Plumbe

This Sale, eagerly awaited by West African enthusiasts, was held on 16 June 2005 in the Cavendish auction room in Derby. Circle members attending included Ian Anderson, Mike Roberts (albeit in a sub-continental capacity), and your two reporters. The prices realised include the addition of the 17.625% buyer's premium inclusive of VAT; estimates are shown in brackets in italic.

## Gold Coast

Realisations on the 222 lots were mixed but, as always, the unusual and the good postal history sold well. Some of the more interesting items with lot numbers were:

- 308. Large red 'CAPE – COAST – CASTLE/ PAID' used in 1858 on cover (*£1000*) £1882
- 309. Black 'CAPE – COAST – CASTLE' datestamp on entire from St George d'Elmina (*£750*) £1764
- 311. Red large double-arc 'ACCRA/PAID/MY 12/1864' on entire to Sierra Leone (*£1500*) £4234
- 321. 1875 6d SG3 on cover from Axim in 1876 (*£1200*) £8821
- 331. Addah seal cancelling 2 X 2d greens on cover to Milan (*£500*) £765



Lot 308

The bisects sold round about estimate. Several Type 2 or Type 5 Queen Victoria covers did not sell, the less common mostly went for around estimate. The rare 1891 cover with a red 'VALUE OF STAMPS...' etc, lot 398, fetched £941 against an estimate of £150.

The Ashanti wars 1895-1900:-

- 467. 1896 O.A.S. cover from Tobiassi, 8 miles north of the Prah (*£500*) £765
- 471. 1900 Relief of Kumasi cover (*£400*) £765

The Jebba wreck covers all sold at or well above estimate. Finally, some stamps:-

- 485. 1907 2½d blue inverted watermark used (*£80*) £188
- 503. 1915 3d purple on yellow, inverted watermark, used block of 4 (*£100*) £212
- 509. 1921-24 15/- Die I used (*£120*) £176
- 510. 1924 15/- Die II used on piece (*£120*) £200
- 511. 1921-24 £2 strip of 3 used on piece (*£1200*) £1764
- 512. 1921-24 £2 single used on piece (*£340*) £706

## The Nigerias

This part of the collection was divided into 157 lots covering all the former constituent territories. There was a mixture of individual choice covers or stamps and groups of covers or stamps, but few specimens or

studies of issues, and little archive material. By number, 86% of the lots found new owners who often were 'on the book'; the realised prices generally reflected the quality of the material with estimates generally exceeded for the rarer items but also there was an occasional bargain. Most of the material was pre-1930.

- 642. Nigeria 1914-29 10/- green and red with pale olive back, mint SG11b (£220) £376
- 647. Nigeria 1925 ½d green inter-panneau Die I and Die II in gutter blocks of 4, mint (£120) £376
- 653. Nigeria 1950 KGV1 1/3d sideways watermark, used, SG57ab (£800) £2000
- 659. Nigeria 1916 £5 Revenue MEKO/COURT perfin, used (£200) £282
- 672. Niger Coast Collection of 84 postmarks including 3 diagonally bisected 1d and 2d values (£240) £200
- 679. Niger Coast 1894 '1' on half of 2d unsevered pair with left stamp having double surcharge, pmk Opopo SG 60 + 60a (£400) £1117
- 685. Niger Coast 1894 ½d on 2½d double surcharge (SG65a) on front used locally in Calabar (£1000) £1764
- 690. Niger Company Territories 25 May 1898 Burutu Type 8 on large cover bearing 24 x 2½d, 4 x 3d, ½d, 5d & 10d GB adhesives making 35 times 2½d rate (£1200) £2000
- 694. Niger Company Territories 12 July 1901 Forcados River OAS stampless cover to WAFF with Lokoja Type 13 oval cancellation (£150) £259
- 695. Niger Company Territories Collection of 40 pieces with 1898-99 Burutu, Akassa and Lokoja cancellations on GB ½d, 1d, 2½d, 5d and 10d stamps (£600) £1059
- 712. Lagos 2 Plymouth Paquebot covers, one with 'ORON/108,769 8./ LIVERPOOL' ship's cancel on Lagos KEVII 2 x ½d, other on 1907 PPC with Sierra Leone KEVII 1d (£120) £235
- 714. Lagos 1874 Die Proofs of head plate with blank tablet, and 6 cut down 1d to 1/- value tablets (£300) £565
- 716. Lagos 1884-86 ½d to 10/- fu with oval bars SG 21-29 (£300) £423
- 719. Oil Rivers 4 August 1893 QV 2d regd. env. uprated with overprinted GB 1/- (SG 6) tied Bonny River/ B (£300) £259
- 721. Oil Rivers 20 Dec 1892 GB 1d red P.Stat. PC to Hamburg endorsed 'Registered' uprated by overprinted GB 2x 1d (SG 2), Liverpool & London transit cancels, with 'POSTED OUT/ OF COURSE' cachet (posted in normal box when registered) (£150) £329
- 722. Oil Rivers 11 Sept. 1894 cover to Luton with 2d vert. bisect (SG3a), 1d vermilion diagonal bisect (SG52b) and Niger Coast 1d + 2d, all tied Bonny SqC (£750) £650
- 723. Oil Rivers 12 April 1894 env. to Freetown with severed matching pair of the ½d red overprint on 1d bisect (2 x SG 7) + ½d & 5d, all tied Old Calabar River (£500) £823 (illustrated p62)
- 743. Oil Rivers 1893 ½d on 2½d Type 5 surcharge double cds SG17a (£440) £882
- 761. Oil Rivers 1893 1/- on 2d Type 11 in vermilion, part cds SG38 (£1200) £2000
- 769. Northern Nigeria 1904 £25 green & mauve imperf colour trial on gummed wmk paper (£400) £1117



Lot 714, left



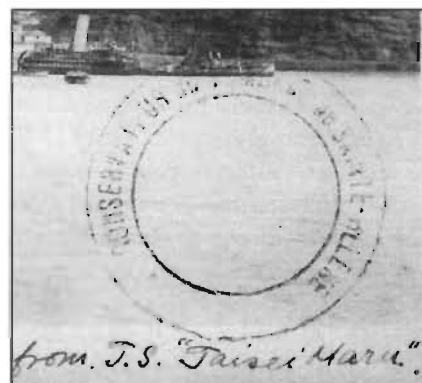
Lot 721, above

# Unidentified Cachet of St Helena

Bob Richardson

I can illustrate (at 70%) this sepia postcard of St Helena which is inscribed in manuscript 'the view of Jamestown, St. Helena from J.S. "Jaisei Maru".' Of particular interest is the cachet at lower right, which I have not seen before. In French, it appears to read: CONSERVATEUR DU ??MS??? de SAINTE-HELENE

Have any readers seen, or can identify, this mark?



Editor's note:

*This brief article was received from Bob earlier this year. Sadly, I heard that he recently passed away at the age of 83. Although not a member of the WASC (he was Vice President of the US based St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society), Bob contributed many articles to our St Helena and Ascension Supplement (and Cameo), chiefly on the subjects of Postal History and Postcards. Although, like your editor, he was born in Yorkshire, and (unlike me!) served in the Royal Air Force during World War II, he met his wife-to-be in New York and settled there after the war. Although we never met, Bob regularly corresponded by post and email, sometimes sending large packets by air mail at not inconsiderable expense to himself. Only a small part of this was for publication, as he often included cuttings and ephemera relating to all aspects of St Helena. I would like to send my personal condolences to his wife, Marie, and their children and families. Thanks Bob for all your help, always willingly given - Barry.*



## Nigeria KGVI 1/3d Watermark Sideways Forgery

Barry Burns

A dealer contacted the KGVI specialists Murray Payne Ltd. regarding a Nigeria 1/3d value with watermark sideways (SG 57ab, CW 14b). He was dubious about the stamp but couldn't quite put his finger on the problem. He had received a group of unsolicited material from Canada, including a number of watermark errors and stamps perforated 'Specimen'.

All the watermark errors were faked. The Nigeria stamp (illustrated opposite) was a brilliant job, involving rebacking, which would have passed all but properly-rigorous examination. This should be a warning to all collectors and dealers to take even more care than previously with such items - certificates are vital. As for the Specimen sets, which were unmounted mint with fresh gum and perfect perforations, there was simply no chance at all that they could be genuine, just from the company they were keeping.



First published in the August 2005 edition of *Sixth Sense*, with thanks to Murray Payne Ltd. (in particular Tanzy Brown) for permission to reproduce it here.

To subscribe to *Sixth Sense* please refer to the advertisement for Murray Payne Ltd. on page 109.

## Nigeria: 1962 National Savings Stamps

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

John Powell and I have been working through West African material in the Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive held by the British Library.

The Stamp Duty Albums under Requisition 691/62 [1962] have two National Savings stamps, 3d dark blue and 1/- scarlet, recess printed by De La Rue. See illustration right, reproduced by permission of the British Library. Note that the country name is not included but the Nigerian coat of arms is in the centre of each stamp,

These stamps are not in the 2002 *British Commonwealth Revenues* catalogue, 7th edition, published by J. Barefoot Ltd.

My thanks are due to Paul Skinner, Curator, Philatelic Collections at the British Library for his help.



## Tristan da Cunha 1961 South African Currency Postage Dues

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



continued on page 99

# SPINK

— F O U N D E D 1 6 6 6 —

## BRITISH EMPIRE STAMPS AND COVERS

LONDON

26<sup>TH</sup>-27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005



With a fine selection of West Africa,  
including the collection of Togo formed by  
Dr. Ignis Retief of South Africa

For more information please contact David Parsons:  
tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4072 Fax: +44 (0)20 7563 4085  
e-mail: [dparsons@spink.com](mailto:dparsons@spink.com)

**THE TRADITION THE EXPERIENCE THE RESULTS**

---

69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET, UK

[www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com)

*continued from page 97*

Robin Taylor in the October 2004 issue of the *South Atlantic Chronicle* reported the existence of a 'proof printing' of a set of postage dues that was previously unknown.

John Powell and I have been carrying out research in the British Library and can add further information. The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive includes 'Stamp Duty Albums' where the Crown Agents stick in new stamp issues, including stamps in new colours or with new watermarks, as they were issued.

Listed under Requisition 99/61 can be found four values of these dues as issued, i.e. perforated and presumably with gum. The 1c is scarlet, the 2c orange-yellow, the 3c green and the 5c lake (see p97, illustrated by permission of the British Library). The stamps were printed by Messrs De La Rue.

In the actual Requisition Books under R99/61 the following is entered for De La Rue:-

1c	700 sheets	35,000 printed	50 per sheet
2c		35,000 printed	
3c		35,000 printed	
5c		35,000 printed	

It is recorded that 30,000 went to the Crown Agents, 414 to the GPO, 6 to the Philatelic Press, 297 to the Commonwealth Office, 1 for the Crown Agents [presumably for their retention with the 30,000 for sale in the island and to dealers], 1 for the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, 1 for the Commonwealth Institute, 1 for the British Museum, 1 for Her Majesty the Queen and 2 for the Contractors i.e. De La Rue. Another note in this particular Requisition Book states 'Returned from Tristan da Cunha & destroyed'.

This was due to the volcanic eruption on the island. The change to South African currency of cents and rands came to a stop when South Africa left the Commonwealth. Tristan reverted to sterling until decimalisation in 1971.

My thanks are due to Paul Skinner, Curator of Philatelic Collections, for his help in the preparation of this article.



## Lome à Atakpame Convoyeur Postmark

**John Mayne**



M. Langlois and V. Bourselet in their work on the postmarks of French West Africa (1937) list three railway cancels for each of the three lines, all with Lome as their terminus; these designated by Friedemann in the German period as Shore Line to Anecho (44 km), Interior Line to (Agome) Palime (119 km) and Far Interior Line to Atakpame (164 km).

J. Martin and F. Walton in their work on the Allied Occupation record that no cancels were introduced by the French for the Post Offices in their sector before 20 July 1922. I disregard the Grand Popo cancel amended for brief use at Anecho. They record, however, that French cancels were introduced for each railway route and give an earliest usage of 1922 for all three. However, to date only the Lome à Palimine strike is known used before 20 July 1922.

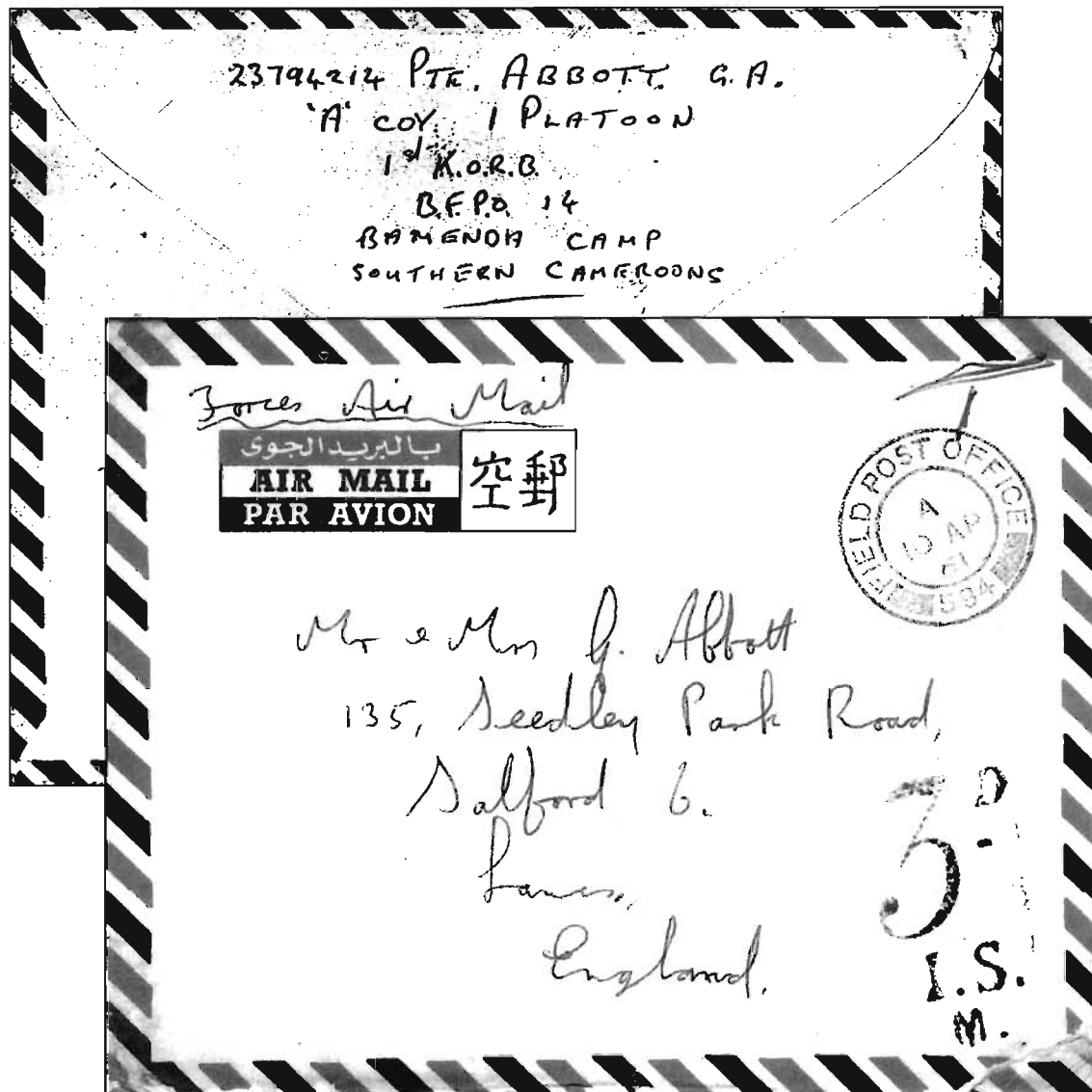
Bill Mitchell, in the *France and Colonies Philatelic Society Journal* regularly updates the use of the 1921 Dahomey issues overprinted TOGO, and I now report the discovery of a 25c value, Yvert 108, cancelled by the Lome à Atakpame Convoyeur postmark for June 1922. Unfortunately the day slug is incomplete and could be taken as the 10th, 12th, 13th, 18th or 19th.

# Taxed Forces' Mail from British Army at Bamenda, Cameroons 1961

Bob Maddocks

Illustrated below is a 'Forces Air Mail' cover sent to England by a Private serving with the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment at Bamenda, during the period 1960 - 61 when the Southern Cameroons were the direct responsibility of the British Government following separation from Nigeria.

Unfranked by the sender, it was postmarked 'FIELD POST OFFICE/584/A/10 AP/61' (this FPO being sited at Bamenda), and then taxed 3d in green ink on arrival in England by the London Inland Section. Mail from this operation was not postage free and this letter should have been prepaid 3d in British stamps, being the 'Forces Air Mail' concession rate. Of note here is that the tax has been raised at the single and not the otherwise double rate as applicable to civilian mail.



❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

# Nigerian Military Operations in the Southern Cameroons 1959/1960

**Bob Maddocks**

As far as I am aware nothing specific has so far come to light on military postal traffic, whether official or private, to and from Nigerian Forces serving in the Southern Cameroons from December 1959 to September 1960. Within that period companies of the five battalions of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment were rotated to the Southern Cameroons on border security operations, given the spill-over of terrorist activity in French Cameroon. They were based at Bamenda and Kumba until, with the advent of Nigerian Independence, they were relieved by British Armed Forces in late September 1960.

Unlike the British, who established their own Field Post Offices (Ref. 1), it would appear that the Nigerians had no special arrangements and used the local Post Offices in the Nigerian postal system, of which the Southern Cameroons was a part. The Q.O.N.R. was technically on home soil and not on active service, thus not entitled to free franking. The H.M. Forces Postage Concession rates would have, however, applied to overseas mailings. It would be interesting, nonetheless, to see whether any of their mails have been recognised and whether they bear any special military cachets or date stamps.

By way of stimulating collectors' interest here follows a description of those mentioned operations extracted from *The History of the Royal West African Frontier Force* by A. Hayward and F.A.S. Clarke (Gale & Polden, Aldershot 1964) - 'Operations in the Southern Cameroons 1959-1960'.

*For many months terrorists, mainly of the Bamileke tribe from the French Cameroons, had been raiding villages in the British Trustee Territory of the Southern Cameroons. The problem facing the Government of this Territory was to prevent terrorists from crossing the border and lying up in the frontier area in between raids. Operations by the police eventually became inadequate and the situation had so deteriorated by October, 1959 that the Government of the Territory called for military aid from Nigeria.*

*Two companies of 1 Q.O.N.R. from Enugu were sent into the Territory ostensibly to carry out military training. One company was based on Bamenda in the north and the other at Kumba in the south of the Territory. The presence of these troops overawed the terrorists and both companies were withdrawn to Enugu during November. But the situation soon began to deteriorate again, added to which the French Cameroons were due to become independent on 1<sup>st</sup> January, when it was anticipated the Bamileke would cause trouble. The police therefore asked for the troops to be returned and so, during December, 1959, 1 Q.O.N.R. moved in and were based on Bamenda.*

*As a result of 1 Q.O.N.R. operating entirely in the north, the terrorists increased their activities in the south. To counter this 4 Q.O.N.R. was moved from Ibadan to Kumba in February, 1960. The move was carried out by sea from Lagos to Victoria, the troops being carried in ships of the Royal Nigerian Navy and their transport by coaster. During the following months 1 Q.O.N.R. was relieved in the Bamenda area by 5 Q.O.N.R. from Kaduna; the move was made by road and rail, Enugu being used as a staging post.*

*In these operations battalions were deployed in company groups, the main task of each company being to cover a large frontier area by active patrolling. In one instance a patrol of 5 Q.O.N.R. surprised a terrorist camp, capturing 30 terrorists and a strong box containing £10,000. It was subsequently ascertained that this camp was almost certainly the main headquarters of Singap Martin, who was one of the most important terrorists leaders.*

*During May, 4 Q.O.N.R. was relieved in the Kumba area by 3 Q.O.N.R. from Abeokuta, and in the following month 2 Q.O.N.R. took over from 5 Q.O.N.R. at Bamenda.*

It had been decided that once Nigeria became independent, military operations in Southern Cameroons would be a United Kingdom commitment. In August an advanced party of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The King's Own Border Regiment arrived by air. Their transport came by L.S.T. which was used to move the vehicles of 3 Q.O.N.R. back to Lagos.

The process of thinning out now commenced and 3 Q.O.N.R. returned to Abeokuta, their area in the south being taken over by one company of 2 Q.O.N.R. from Bamenda. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1960, 2 Q.O.N.R. was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The King's Own Border Regiment and so ended Nigeria's responsibility in the Southern Cameroons. The whole operation had lasted eleven months and five battalions of the R.W.A.F.F. had taken part.

#### Reference

- 1 Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB Canada 1994



## Sierra Leone Postcard Air Mail Rate to the UK in 1950

### Frank Walton FRPSL

This interesting postcard was posted from the MV *Apapa* during a brief call at Freetown on 29 April 1950. It attracted the usual boxed POSTED ON STEAMER handstamp and then paid 5d air mail to the UK. The air mail rates from Sierra Leone are notoriously difficult to tie down around this period, despite several members making searches through official records. As far as I am aware, this 5d rate has not been recorded before by the Study Circle.

Peter Richards helpfully pointed out that the reciprocal rate from the UK to Sierra Leone in 1950 was 6d. Although it is often the case that the rates were identical in either direction, the lack of postage due in the UK suggests that 5d was a valid rate.



# Biafra: The Reverend R.G. Brown Correspondence

Tony Plumbe and Barbara Priddy

Almost all surviving non-philatelic Biafran material can be traced to just three sources, namely: Archbishop Patterson, Father Mayer and Barclays Bank in Port Harcourt - with the first two sources being by far the predominant. A fourth source, again missionary, has emerged with the placing for sale on ebay in April 2005 of covers addressed to or associated with the Rev. R.G. Brown. This correspondence comprises 20 covers. Rev. Brown was resident at Trinity College in Umuahia for at least the first year of the Civil War.

Twelve of the covers have Postage Paid cachets with seven bearing the 4d violet used variously at Afikpo (5 FE ??), Calabar (12 SP 67), Enugu (26 SP 67), Ihiala (3 FE ??), and Owerri (20 NO 67, ?? FE 6?). Four have the 2d black or violet used at Itu (26 SP 67, 29 DE 67, ?? FE ??), Umuahia (19 SP 67), and one is a combination 1/4d violet and 2d violet on a registered cover from Itu (29 DE 67). This combination cover is believed to be only the second recorded example (Fig. 1).

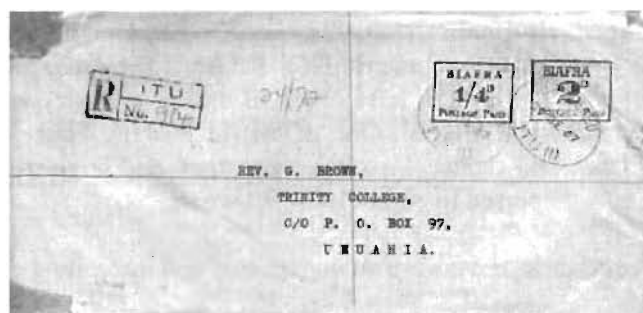


Fig. 1  
1/4d violet and 2d violet Postage Paid cachets in combination

There are two 'On Active Service' covers from Aba dated 29 December 1967 and Mbaukwu-Awka dated 11 March 6? (possibly 1968), both from the same soldier number 2875/29172 who gave his return address as Ebiri Uteri Okoro on the Aba cover and the shortened Ebi Okoro on the second cover.

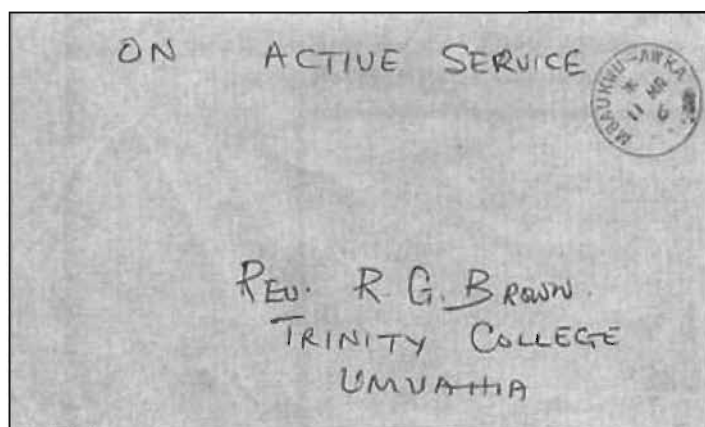


Fig. 2  
'On Active Service' from Mbaukwu-Awka

When sending the Aba postmarked cover, this soldier was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, His Excellency's Special Brigade, Akagbe - Enugu sector, but when sending from Mbaukwu-Awka he was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, His Excellency's Special Brigade of the Biafran Army, Awka Operational Zone (Fig. 2). The remaining six covers have 2d or 4d Independence adhesives which only sometimes have clear cancellations.

Apart from the Rev. Brown, the other addressees are: Mr. Ewo Udofia c/o Rev. P.J. Ross at Umuahia, Mr. Emmanuel Ogwo at Umuahia, Rev. Canon P.J. Ross at Umuahia, Mr. J.O.I. Okocha c/o Rev. F.C. Vincent at Orlu, Mr. A.J. Gordon c/o Rev. R.G. Brown, The Chairman of the Literature Committee at Umuahia, Rev. A.G. Somerville at Afikpo, and 'Mr. Jnnan c/o Mr. C. Hodhison at 'Echrra Jkwo via Abakaliki'. The covers include material from, via or to locations that were overrun by the Federal Forces early in the conflict such as Abakaliki, Afikpo, Calabar, and Enugu. Postmarks not previously recorded are:

Arochuku	Type C	Arochuku / 11 AM / ?? MR / ?? / Blank
Enugu	Type C	Enugu / 4 PM / 26 SP / 67 / Blank
Itu	Type C	Itu / 1130 AM / 26 SP / 67 / Blank
Itu	Type E	Registered / 29 DE 67 / Itu (1)
Mbaukwa-Awka	Type B	Mbaukwa-Awka / * / 11 MR / 9 / Blank

Three of the covers carry previously unseen PPRR cachets with 2d postage rates, two with letters with no full stops between the capital letters, sent by the Presbyterian Church Insurance Agency and postmarked Itu (Fig. 3); one has a full stop after each serified capital letter. It is assumed PPRR stands for 'Printed Paper Reduced Rate'.

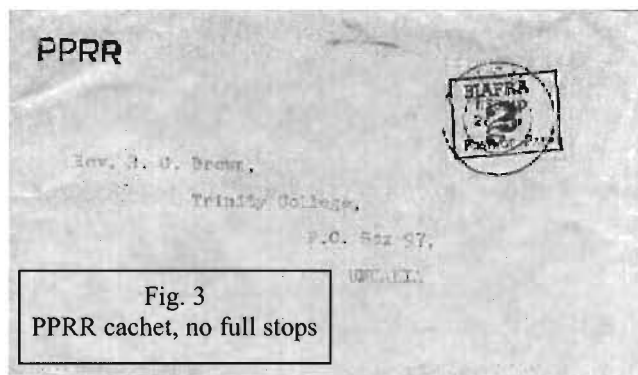


Fig. 3  
PPRR cachet, no full stops

One printed manila envelope from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Umuahia has 'NIGERIA' typed out and 'BIAFRA' inserted. The cover to Mr Innan has a red ms endorsement 'TRY R.I.M.'. The letter from Calabar to the Rev. Somerville at Afikpo has written in the bottom left corner 'If undelivered, redirect to Miss J.S.F. van der Borch / ?St Francis ?? Girls School / Afikpo'. One of the 4d Postage Paid covers from Owerri has a red 4d in ms below the postmark and cachet. Envelopes are small and large manila, and a few small air mail types. These covers are now dispersed to eight different owners.

Overall, these covers are an unexpected and interesting discovery.

Note: ? means unclear or absent on scan. Illustrations are not to scale.



*Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements*

**RITCHIE BODILY**

**We wish to buy specialised collections and studies of West African material as well as Individual items such as fine covers, proofs, essays and early adhesives.**

OCT 03

BEFORE  
HARDENING

NORTHERN NIGERIA

£25

NORTHERN NIGERIA KING EDWARD VIITH 1904 £25

A Die Proof of the country and value tablets struck in black on full glazed card, dated October 1903 and marked "Before Hardening". Ince and Sacher record just two examples of this proof; one cut down to stamp size and this example on full card  
Ex Shaw collection.

P.O. BOX 475, RICHMOND, SURREY TW9 3DN

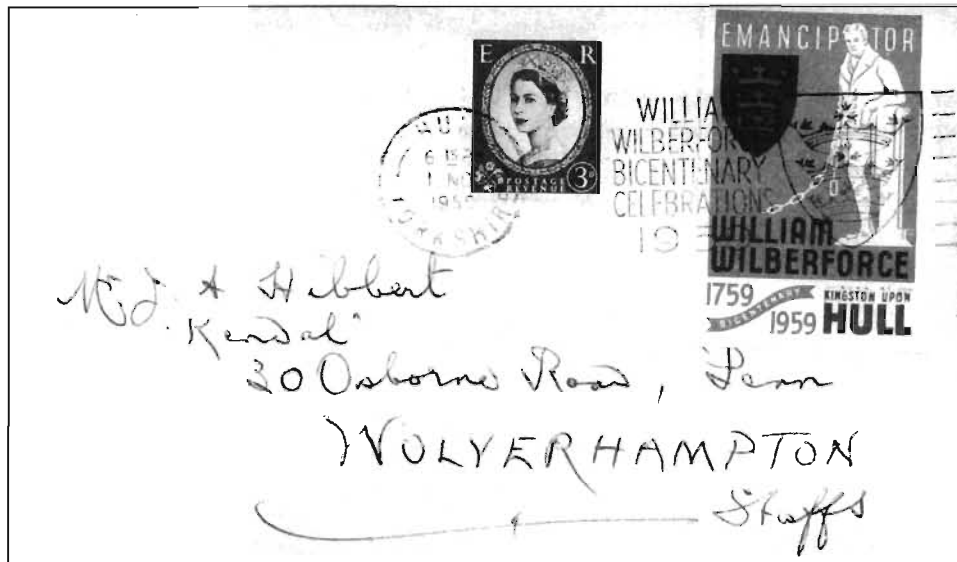
Tel: 0208 940 5171 Fax: 0208 334 1091

Email: [Rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk)

# Wilberforce Cinderella Item

Frank Walton FRPSL

This cover turned up (undescribed) in a lot of Yorkshire postal history that I bought for a different item. It is a commemorative label celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of William Wilberforce. The British post office issued a special slogan postmark for this event (Parsons, Peachey and Pearson Type 151), which was in use at Hull 24 to 31 August 1959 (PP & P Ref. 284) and 1 to 19 November 1959 (PP & P Ref. 286). Although I have seen the slogan postmark before, the existence of this Cinderella label was new to me. The background and lower left inscription are blue, the shield and name dark blue and the crowns and Hull inscription yellow. The remainder of the design is white.



## Update on Perforations of Nigerian Stamps 1999 - 2001

Ray Harris

Two articles by Rudolph Lazar (Ref. 1) and Rob May (Ref. 2) have provided information on the perforation variations of stamps printed in the years from 1999 to 2001. This note refers to items not previously listed in *Cameo*.

The set for the Centenary of the Nigerian Railway Corporation in 1999 has the N5, N10 and N30 with perf 13, while the N20 has perf 14. No stamp has been recorded with both perforations. Also in 1999 the set for the Federal Environmental Protection Agency has been seen with both p13 and p14 on the N5 and the N30, with the N10 p14 only and the N20 p13 only.

In 2000 each stamp of the Sydney Olympics set has been seen with both p13 and p14 (completing the set referred to by Rudolf Lazar), and in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence set the N30 exists in both perforations (in addition to the previously recorded N10 and N20).

The N10 Rain Forest stamp of 2001, not yet in the Gibbons catalogue, but being treated by Circle members as a definitive, has been seen with both p13 and p14. Also seen, and recently listed by Gibbons as 781a (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly* April 2005), is the N30 Preuss's Guenon with p14.

### References

- 1 Lazar R., "Nigeria - Perforations of the Latest Issues", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p219, WASC, July 2002
- 2 May R., "Nigeria 2001 Wildlife Definitives", *Cameo*, Volume 7 p322, WASC, May 2003

**Quality British Commonwealth**  
**POSTAL HISTORY**

*Catering to the discriminating collector*

**Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material**  
**We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.**

If you are not already on our Wants Register, please drop us a line and let us know your requirements. We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

**Willard S. Allman**

**828 Arrow Lane, Ridgewood**  
**NJ 07450, U.S.A.**  
**Tel. 0101-201-652-4858.**



**Richard Allan**

The Stamp Centre, 79 The Strand,  
London WC2R 0DE  
Telephone 020 7379 5439 Fax 020 7240 5419

***PHILATELIC***  
***POSTAL BID SALE***

**OUR MONTHLY SALES GENERALLY  
CONTAIN SOME INTERESTING**

**WEST AFRICA**

**PLEASE REQUEST A COPY OF OUR NEXT SALE  
WE WISH TO BUY MATERIAL FOR OUR SHOP STOCKS**

# St Helena - The Last Printing (1937) of the 7/6d Value

Ralph Stanton

There were just two printings of the 7/6d value of the 1922-1937 KGV 'Badge' issue of St Helena, on 17 May 1922 and 29 April 1937. Details of the printings are:

Invoice Date	Requisition No.	Sheets Printed	Stamps Printed	Comments
17 May 1922	134/1921	108	6480	404 SPECIMENS
29 April 1937	1615/1	89	5340	60 stamps for Mr Ellis 60 stamps for Selfridges

Stanley Gibbons did not differentiate the two printings until 2004, when the first was listed as SG 111 7s 6d brownish grey and yellow-orange, and the last as SG 111d 7s 6d Blackish brown and orange (1937). The former is listed with the torn flag variety, and the latter with the broken mainmast and cleft rock varieties.

Let me concentrate on Stamp 13, the broken mast variety. This variety comes in two states. State One is the original broken mast variety. It first occurs on the stamps of the second printing of the set that took place on 22 December 1922, and is very familiar to all serious collectors. A diagonal cut appears near the base of the mainmast, and this cut, in various quite similar forms, remains constant through all printings up to and including the last. But there is a State Two of the broken mast variety.

Like all of the main varieties on De La Rue printings, it was almost surely caused by the method of storing the plates (like many of the varieties on the Australian George V heads). It does not appear on the stamps printed before 1936, but it is present on the late printings. In this second state, the diagonal break in the mast is still present, but there are three additional flaws. The most obvious is a compression of the left side of the vignette for about 2 millimetres, opposite the middle leaf on the left side. The other two flaws are in the base of the vignette. There are 3 small breaks in the base just above the right-hand part of the T of St Helena (of these, the left-hand break is by far the most prominent). There is also a break in the base of the vignette just above the A of St Helena.

The importance of these three additional flaws in State 2 is obvious. It allows us to state unequivocally that any stamp 13 printed in 1937 must have these three additional features. This State 2 of the flaw does indeed exist on the 7s 6d value, although it is very rare. (*It has long been believed that a large quantity of this value was destroyed when the KGV definitives became available and, as I am not aware of a genuine used example of the late printing, one is drawn to the conclusion that all surviving examples are from the two sheets retained for dealers Ellis and Selfridges - Ed.*) I have a large accumulation of the seven and sixpence stamps, and one would expect that, if I accumulated this grouping at random, the two printings should be present in the ratio of 108 to 2 (108 sheets printed in 1922, 2 sheets surviving from the dealer orders of 1937). This ratio of fifty to one holds roughly and provides some additional verification of my statement.

It now remains to distinguish the 1937 printing from the first printing. Gibbons descriptions of the shades is not very accurate. First, the 1922 printing comes largely in a shade of yellow-orange, but there are variations and some of the stamps can reasonably be described as orange (just as some of the three halfpence stamps of 1922 are in a deep rose-red shade that led to there being listed a 'rose-carmine' shade for some time - I have even seen a 1937 copy given a false certificate as not being the deep carmine shade!). So the shade of the 7/6d stamp is not a good indication of the printing. If it is yellowish, it certainly is the first printing. If it appears orange or brownish orange, one can not be sure.

But the colour of the vignette is definitely not blackish-brown on the 1937 printing, and I am forced to believe that Gibbons did not have an authentic copy of the 1937 printing when it made this listing. This brings us to the question of how one can be sure one is looking at a copy of the 1937 printing. First, the

vignette colour is a shade of pearly grey, not blackish brown. Also, there are a number of stamps that have characteristic flaws that do not appear on the early printing. Of these flaws, the most prominent are as follows (there are others that are less prominent):

- Stamp 1 snow on the rock, and bubble in the middle of the lower vignette frame.
- Stamp 13 the broken mast, State Two.
- Stamp 16 weakness in vignette frame above HEL.
- Stamp 18 the white buoys flaw (sometimes called a zigzag).
- Stamp 28 a small but noticeable break in the upper mizzenmast.
- Stamp 29 the storm over rock flaw, second state.
- Stamp 42 the repaired flag.
- Stamp 49 the cleft rock (State Two, with stern wave and break above H of Helena).

But there is one infallible method of identifying a mint copy of the stamp. It has the same streaky brown gum that appears on the issue of February 1937 and that is so familiar on the deep carmine red stamp (and that also appears on the halfpenny, penny, and two-penny stamps of that printing). This is often described as toned gum, but toned gum is much more uniform and the streaky brown gum of the 1937 printings makes the watermark stand out very clearly.

A few of these stamps are 'used', but they never were postally used. Everyone is aware of the way in which stamps were sent to St Helena for the purpose of obtaining 'grace and favour cancels'. Indeed, the used copy of the seven shillings and sixpence with broken mast has such a cancel that is dated before the issuing of the stamp (there are commoner instances of grace and favour cancels on the 1936 fivepence stamp).

I conclude with a story about the seven shillings and sixpence stamp, a story that led me to write this article. A few months ago, a stamp was listed on ebay as the second printing of the seven shillings and sixpence stamp, and it did not sell. It was relisted, and again did not sell. The third listing came complete with a certificate of authenticity from a respected UK expertising committee (I knew the stamp was not authentic, since the illustration showed both sides of the stamp and it did not have the requisite streaky brown gum). The certificate was signed by a single person, whose scrawled signature was not easily legible. Obviously, this person had not seen an authentic copy of the stamp that he was certifying. I could not help thinking back to a conversation that I had many years ago with the late John Lea. John was proud of his reputation as a curmudgeon, but he had an enormous amount of philatelic knowledge. He referred rather scornfully to experts who give opinions on stamps they have never seen before, and this seems to be a case in point.

To sum up, one is forced to the conclusion that no copies of the April 1937 printing have survived except for the 2 sheets of the seven shillings and sixpence stamp that were supplied to dealers (120 stamps). Of course, not all of these will have survived since there has been a world war since that time.

## **Ascension (Not St Helena) Printings of 29 April 1937**

**Barry Burns**

When I received the above article by Ralph Stanton, I was reminded of an error in several publications concerning a late printing of several 'Badge' values which have been incorrectly attributed to St Helena.

Edward Hibbert published full details of the St Helena 1922-37 Badge printings in *The London Philatelist* Vol. 88 Nos 1043-4 p 147-150, and these were reprinted by Roger West in *The St Helena Supplement* No. 5, p8-9. These were claimed to be from the actual invoices. Included were two printings both invoiced on 29 April 1937; Requisition 1614/1 for the 5d, 8d, 1/- and 5/- values and Requisition 1615/1 for the 7/6 value (as discussed by Ralph above). I have photocopies of these invoices and, sure enough, they list the details for St Helena as recorded by Hibbert. However, this is not the end of the story.

On visiting the Philatelic Collections at the British Library a couple of years ago, as part of my research on the printings etc. of the St Helena KGVI issue (which I started to write in *Supplement* No. 38, p 26-32), I

found some discrepancies between the Paper Issue Books, the Plate Issue Books, and the Requisition Books. These related to various entries not matching exactly, and perhaps more importantly, some entries for **Ascension** (my emphasis) being listed under St Helena presumably because, being a Dependency of the latter, Ascension orders came via St Helena. Because I started looking through the Requisition Books for the year of George VI's accession, 1937, I caught the 'tail end' of the GV issues:

REQN	ADMINISTRATION	DESCRIPTION	DUTY	NO. OF		STAMPS PER SHEET	DATE DUE	DESPATCHED		REMARKS
				SHEETS	STAMPS			DATE	QUANTITY	
1614/1	St Helena Ascension Is	Postage & R. Stamps	5d	200	12,000	60	23 April 1937	28.4.37	188	Urgently Req'd.
			8d	200	12,000	60			190	
			1/-	100	6,000	60			100	
			5/-	100	6,000	60			95	
1615/1	St Helena	P. & R. Stamps	7/6	100	6,000	60	24 April 1937	28.4.37	89	60 stamps from supply to be reserved for Mr. Ellis & 60 for Selfridges, and G3 informed when ready

For Requisition 1614/1 the values agree with Hibbert, apart from the crucial amendment 'Ascension Is'. This has an important bearing for St Helena, as it means there was only one printing for the 8d and 5/- Script values, two printings of the 1/- value and four printings of the 5d value. For Ascension, these printings were, of course, for the pictorial issue of 1934 and **not** the 'Badge' issue. In *Ascension Island – The Crown Agents Records in the British Library* Philip Beale does indeed include these 4 values for Requisition No. 1614/1 as being for Ascension, so he must have beaten me to the discovery!

With acknowledgements and thanks to the Crown Agents and Philatelic Collections at the British Library for the above details.

*Please mention Cameo when responding to Advertisements*



## Ascension



SG 10-20 1924-27 set of 12. VFM (4d some adhesion on reverse) £135  
 SG 21-30 1934 Pictorial set of 10. VFM £65  
 SG 21 1934 ½d Pictorial. VFUM sheet of 60, constant flaws on R2/3, 6/3 and 9/3. Not often offered £30  
 SG 31-34 1935 Silver Jubilee set of 4. VFUM marginal £40  
 SG 35 1937 ½d Coronation. VFM example with large, presumably random, blob below 'C' £14  
 SG 38 1938-44 ½d perf 13½. VFUM corner strip of 5, R5/1 slash in 'E' of 'ASCENSION' £30  
 SG 38b 1944-53 ½d perf 13. VFUM part imprint and FP1 block of 9, R9/4 constant frame colour left of medallion, and 10/4 flaw on 'd' in right value tablet £15  
 CW 14 1944 printing of ½d value. VFUM corner block, R2/6 scratch right of 'GEORGETOWN' £9

SG 39c 1949 1d orange, perf 14. VFUM corner block of 9, R3/2 'pebble on path' £10  
 SG 39c 1949 1d orange, perf 14. VFUM CP1 block of 4, R10/2 line on mountain £10  
 SG 40d 1949 1½d rose-carmine, perf 14. VFUM Plate block of 10, R6/6 doubled shading on shed £12  
 SG 40e 1953-54 1½d perf 13. VFUM positional block of 10, R2/4 'buoy' flaw £14  
 SG 40e 1953-54 1½d perf 13. VFUM corner block of 10, R5/6 medallion re-entry £14  
 CW 19b 1950 printing of 3d perf 13. VFUM vertical strip of 5, R3/4 dents in top frame at right £10  
 SG 42d 1944-53 4d perf 13. VFUM FP 1 block of 4 £15  
 SG 70-83 1963 Birds set of 14. VFUM cylinder blocks of 4 £140

P. O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, England, BS26 2EW  
 Tel: +44 1934 732511 Fax: +44 1934 733498  
 Email: murraypayne@dial.pipex.com  
[www.murraypayne.com](http://www.murraypayne.com)

*Please contact us for postage details*



# A New Tiko Cameroons Parcel Post Cancel?

Jim Thompson and Marty Bratzel

The 1/- Nigeria stamp shown in Figure 1 was in a lot purchased (by JT) on ebay. The cancel, in purple ink, is partial, with only two letters and the merest bit of a third present. *The Nigeria Handbook* lists only one Post Office in Nigeria that begins with T – Tiko (Ref. 1). We conclude that this is a previously unreported parcel post cancel from Tiko, Cameroons (Ref. 2). With our sketch in Figure 2, we speculate what the full cancel might be. To determine the date, we note that the stamp was in use from 1936 until superseded in 1953. Members are asked to be on the lookout for additional examples.



Fig. 1

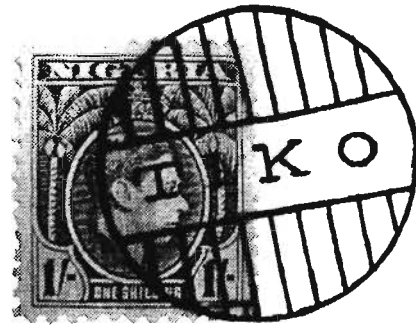


Fig. 2

Both illustrations at c. 150%

## References

1. *The Nigeria Handbook*. Published by the Crown Agents, London, on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, reprinted June 1956
2. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, MPB Canada 1994, ISBN 0-9694026-1-9

## Flying Nuggets

Tony Plumbe

Sometimes the nuggets are in the text of notes found inside covers. This rather intriguing modern 'philatelic' cover (shown at c. 75%) was flown on 7 October 1986 to an acquaintance in the USA of the Captain of a Twin Otter DCH-6 plane that was chartered usually to the Gulf Oil Company on a Lagos-Escravos-Warri-Escravos-Lagos daily routing on Mondays to Saturdays. On this occasion it was carrying 600 deep fried chickens, 1000 lbs of beef, and '...god knows what else...' (to quote the sender) to a wedding in Lagos! A truly Nigerian example of social philately!!

WX <u>VFR</u> TEMP	
Mission <u>CARGO OPS</u>	
Date <u>7 Nov 86</u>	
Plane <u>DHC-6 No. 614</u>	
From <u>ESCRAVOS</u>	
To <u>LAGOS</u>	
Pilot <u>OLUMIDE</u>	
Co-Pilot <u>OBOR</u>	
Remarks <u>UNUSUAL !!</u>	<b>ARTHUR M. CRUMRINE</b> P. O. BOX 16302 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216 USA

# Cameroun 1961 Sterling Surcharges - 1/2d Value

Rob May

Two previous articles have traced the identified varieties of some values of these stamps, issued during the currency changeover from Sterling to CFA Francs in the Southern part of the former UK Trust Territory of Cameroons (Refs. 1 and 2). More recently Marty Bratzel has succeeded in plating two of the values (Ref. 3), and this author has shown a full sheet of another (Ref. 4). I can now shed a little further light on the halfpenny value, as a result of a surprise discovery at a local stamp fair purchased at very little cost.

The original article (Ref. 1) illustrated at Figure 1 a wide setting of the 1/2d surcharge, with the d located below the last "E" of FEDERALE. At the same time that article also discussed a broken-up proof sheet of the overprint for the 1/2d value, all available sections of which showed only the narrow setting. As reported in *Cameo* (Ref. 2) the only positions of the proof sheet we had not seen then (and still have not) were rows 4 and 5, positions 1,2,3, 9 and 10. If this wide setting is a plate variety it would have to be found in one or more of those positions.

The illustration shows a mint block of ten, with margins, from positions 9 and 10 of every row, on which every stamp shows the wide setting. I can say with some confidence that this variety arises from a second printing. Consistently with previous known copies, this form of the surcharge is on the perf. 12.5 x 12 1fr stamp.

Dudley Cobb's analysis in *Cameo* (Ref. 2) helps provide some deductive reasoning. As the proof is of the 1/2d value it seems very likely it was printed first, then re-set to print the 1d and 2d values. At some later stage it was decided that insufficient 1/2d values had been printed. However, the 1d and 2d values show the positioning of the 'd' and the spacing and lettering of 'REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE' identical to the first form of the 1/2d. This later printing differs in all respects - the horizontal spacing of the words is greater and they are either slightly larger or much more boldly printed. It may be another example of a later printing by the unknown other printer who printed the high values with the larger figures. The eagle-eyed may notice some good plate varieties in the form of broken and elongated obliterating bars.

Whoever did print these stamps, they were issued in Cameroun for postal use. A used pair dated 14 April 1962 at Bamenda has previously been referred to (Ref. 1). Again, the postmark date is consistent with a later printing.

*References on following page*



## References

- 1 May, Wright, Smith & Lythgoe, "Cameorun 1961 Sterling Surcharges", *Cameo*, Vol 6 pp248-252, WASC, January 2000.
- 2 May R, "Cameroun Sterling Surcharges Reprised", *Cameo* Vol 6, pp330-331, WASC, July 2000
- 3 Bratzel, Lythgoe, May & Carter, "Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 1½d and 3d Stamps", *Cameo*, Vol 8 pp144-150, WASC, June 2004
- 4 May R, "Cameroun 1961 2/6 Large Format Surcharge", *Cameo*, Vol 8 pp297-298, WASC, January 2005.



## Newly Found Post-War Nigerian First Flights

Tony Plumbe

Three covers have recently emerged to add to our records.

First, there is the First Flight of the WAAC Stratocruiser aircraft from Lagos to London that left Lagos on 2 May 1957. This is commemorated by the re-directed plain airmail envelope with a typed "First WAAC Strat. Flight Lagos/London 2.5.57" endorsement depicted in Figure 1. It is backstamped 'Boston Lincs 6 MY 57'. If I may add a personal touch: I remember travelling as an unaccompanied child in this BOAC/WAAC aircraft which resembled a flying boat with wheels. We were issued with Junior Jet Club booklets which recorded all our flights duly certified by the flight crew (the precursor to frequent flyer programmes), and were allowed into the cockpit en route; I recall looking down on a very rocky Sahara Desert! On one occasion the Stratocruiser landed at Rome but could not take off for 36 hours owing to a shift in the wind. That led to my first tour of Rome courtesy of BOAC!



Fig. 1 First WAAC Strat. Flight Lagos/London

A second cover to come to light relates to the 18 January 1961 KLM flight from Lagos to Amsterdam. An example of a cover for the Lagos - Tunis leg postmarked on 16 JA 60 in Lagos with a cachet not noted previously is shown in Figure 2. The cover has no backstamp but a Dutch Aerophilatelic Club return address cachet.



Fig. 2 KLM First Flight Lagos - Amsterdam

Thirdly, there is the inaugural flight of the VC10 operated by BOAC. From the machine postmark shown on the rather attractive cover depicted in Figure 3, the date for the return Lagos to London flight appears to have been 1 May 1964, but maybe the actual flight was on 2 May 1964. Does anyone have an example of an outward bound cover?

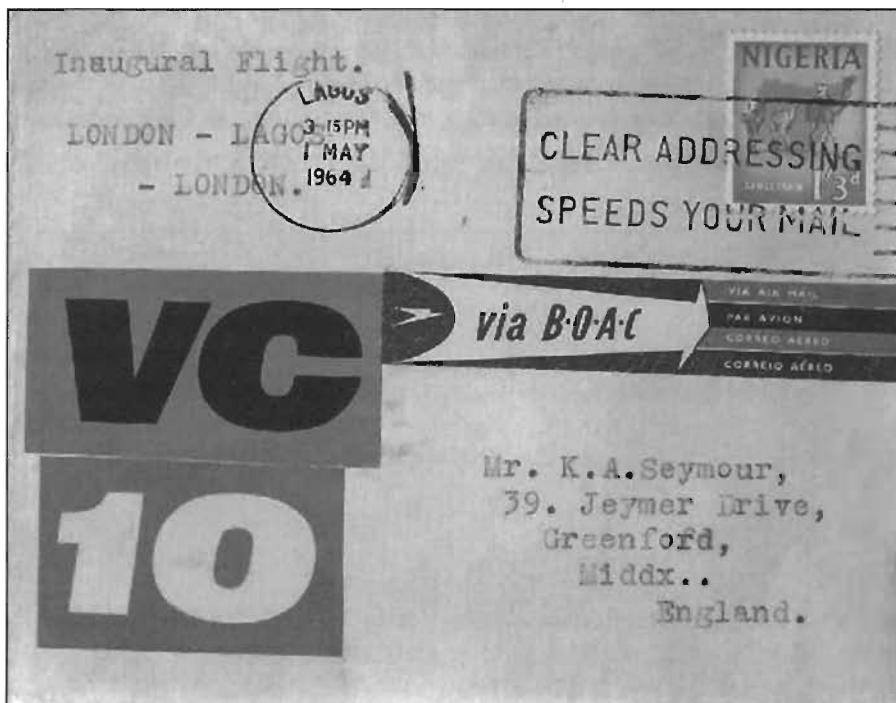


Fig. 3 Inaugural VC10 return flight Lagos - London

# Togo Mail from Tokpli

John Mayne

*Togo - The Postal History of the Anglo - French Occupation 1914 - 1922* by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton page 63 states:

*'About 28 miles north of Anecho on the River Mono is the village of Tokpli. It is on the border between Togo and Dahomey. On the map drawn to accompany the declaration of 1919 it is shown as having a Post Office. The Germans had an office there but as far as is known no allied Post Office operated. Certainly no postmarks have been recorded in the period under review. The nearby office of Athieme in Dahomey could have been used as a substitute or it is possible the German office was perhaps a customs post which became redundant after the French took over.*

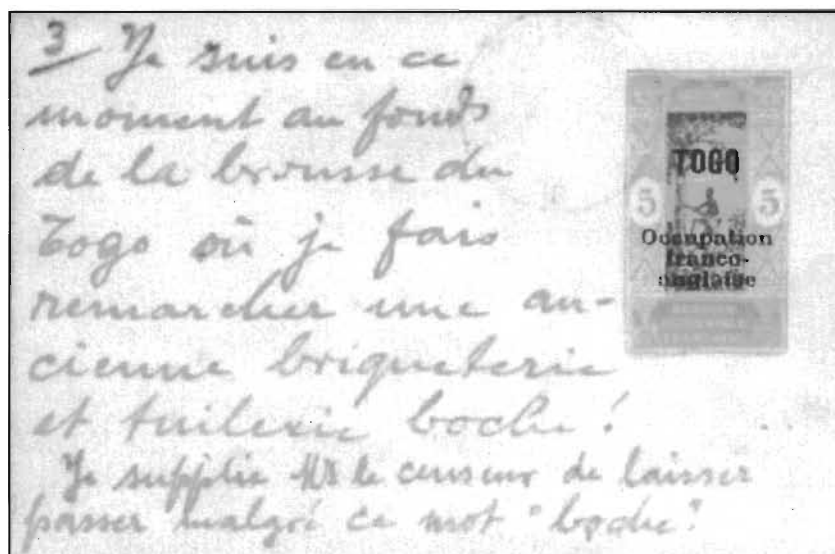
The German cancel for Tokpli is listed from 04.02.1907 to sometime in August 1914. The ARGE 2003 catalogue suggest Euro 300 on cover. I have a copy of a map from a Michel catalogue issued between World Wars I and II which shows Tokli as the terminus of a Botenpost route and providing telegraph services. The cancel is not readily found in the German period as the catalogue suggests.

On page 38 in the same work the Dahomey 5c postal stationery envelope overprinted for Togo is listed available from 1917. These also are not readily found, the majority when found are cancelled 'par complaisance' and unposted. Of several I hold the earliest was posted August 1917.

A recent ebay auction offered the following item (*illustrated at 80%*) listed as a 5c postal stationery card, the vendor had not appreciated it was a postal stationery envelope opened out. The number three suggests it was the third of such 'envelopes', with no closing paragraph there may have been others. The first part of the message reads:

*je suis en ce moment au foind de la brousee du Togo ou je fais remarkuer une ancienne briqueterie et tuilere boche! (I am presently in the middle of the Togo bush where I have come across an old German brick and tile works!)*

I have been unable to make out the closing sentence and any thoughts are welcomed! The cancel is the German Tokpli cancel but unfortunately other than the '16' year slug the full date is not evident but the item suggests Tokpli Post Office re-opened during the occupation and overprinted Dahomey postal stationery envelopes were available earlier than previously known.



# BRITISH COMMONWEALTH 1840-1952


- Dealers since 1897 in Commonwealth Stamps & Postal History
- We have a large, comprehensive stock of Commonwealth stamps available. Free lists available on request.
- Visit our website on [WWW.BRIDGERKAY.COM](http://WWW.BRIDGERKAY.COM)
- We hold our Temple Bar Auctions every two months. Catalogues free on request.
- Buying - we constantly need to replace stock being sold.



*Bridger & Kay Limited*

PO Box 1600, Wrington, Bristol, BS40 5BD England.

Telephone: +44 (0)1934 863656 Fax: +44 (0)1934 863652 Email: [BridgerKay@aol.com](mailto:BridgerKay@aol.com)

 Members of The Philatelic Traders Society

5338#

## PHILATEX

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL STAMP & COVER SHOW

**110 DEALERS**

(Organised by Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis)

to be held at:

Royal Horticultural Halls

The Lawrence Hall, Greycoat Street

London

**Thursday 27th October 11am - 7pm**

**Friday 28th October 10am - 6pm**

**Saturday 29th October 10am - 5pm**

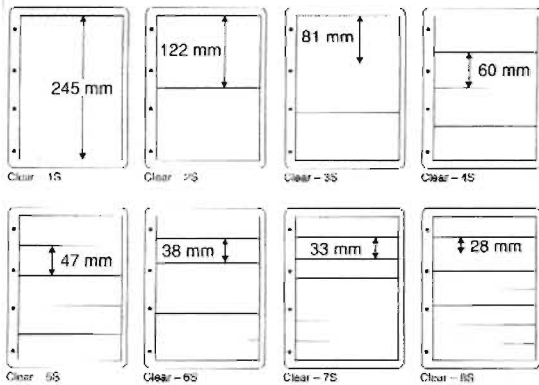
Free Admission AA Signposted Bar/Buffer

For Information, ring: 01793 513431 or 020 8946 4489

[www.stampshows.net](http://www.stampshows.net)

# Stock Systems & Storage

## Hagner Style Stocksheets



### Hagner style stocksheets

There are 3 manufacturers. Hagner 'Original', 'Prinz' and 'Clearview' all of which are made to a very high standard. These are black cartridge sheets with glass clear pure polyester strips. Our prices are competitive. Please order by number of strips per page, eg S1 = single sided, 1 strip; D6 = double sided, 6 strip.

Single sided (per sheet) . . . . . **29p**  
 Double sided (per sheet) . . . . . **47p**

## Special Lower Price Deals

**DEAL 1**

**60 PAGE LUXURY ALBUM**  
 Padded 4-ring stock album in red, blue or green containing 30 double sided black stocksheets of your choice (60 sides).

Each **£17.95**    3 for **£49.95** (180 sides)

**DEAL 2**

**50 PAGE LUXURY ALBUM**  
 Padded 4-ring stock album in red, blue or green containing 50 single sided black stocksheets of your choice (50 sides).

Each **£16.95**    3 for **£47.50** (150 sides)

**OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

1 Padded Binder without leaves . . . . £5.25                      3 Padded Binders without leaves . . . £14.75  
 1 Matching Padded Slip Case . . . £5.25                      3 Matching padded Slip Cases . . . £14.75  
 (Matching padded slip cases available in same colours as binders)

**NB Binders will hold up to 70 single sided sheets or 50 double sided sheets**

## Stock / Approval Cards

**3-Strip**  
 157mm x 112mm

These quality stock-cards are made to our own high specification and are now used by a number of collectors, dealers, auctioneers and clubs.

They are available in 2 different sizes both with a clear protective film covering the surface of the card.

**2-Strip**  
 147mm x 89mm

	100 cards	500 cards	1000 cards
<b>2- STRIP</b>	£5.00	£24.00	£45.00
<b>3- STRIP</b>	£7.50	£36.00	£70.00



**Carriage Extra.**  
 Please add £5.75  
 To inland orders.

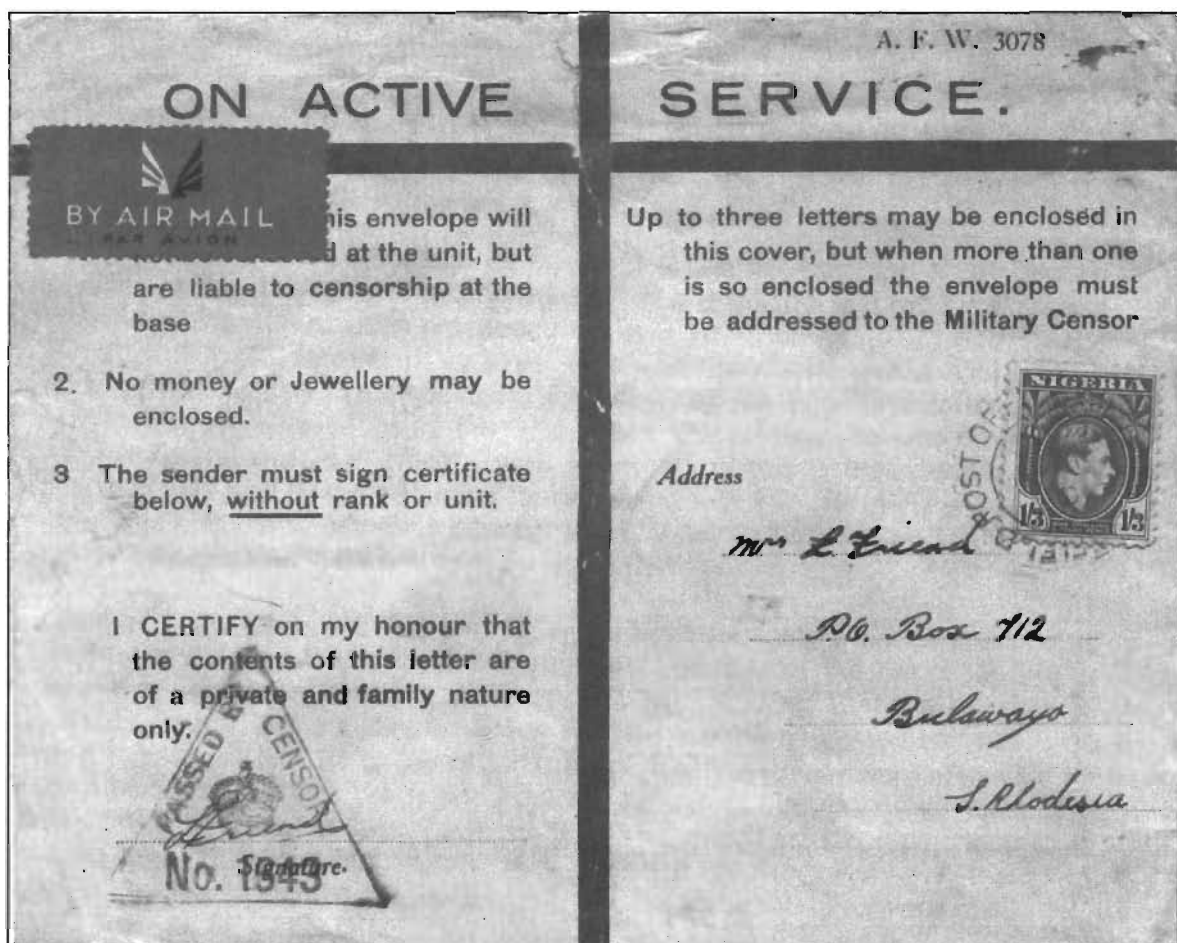
# Southern Rhodesian Contingent in W. Africa in WWII

John Daynes

The largest draft to leave Rhodesia for overseas in the early months of the second world war was the contingent of a hundred and fifty one officers and two hundred and eighty-seven other ranks which proceeded to Cape Town, under command of Major N.S. Freid, DSO, MC, to embark for West Africa. Of this draft seventy-eight officers and a hundred and forty five other ranks were destined for Nigeria, sixty five officers and seventy seven other ranks for the Gold Coast, four officers and nine other ranks for Sierra Leone and four officers and six other ranks for the Gambia. Many Rhodesians won well deserved praise for remaining with the West Africans until the end of the war. Some Rhodesians after arriving in West Africa travelled firstly to East Africa for the campaign there and later on to the Burma Campaign.

The journey to the Cape, with Major E.R. Day as draft-conducting officer, was carried out very quietly. As the South African Government had entered the war in the face of considerable opposition from the Nationalist Party, it was felt that the passage of Rhodesian troops through South Africa might cause embarrassment to Union officials. It was certainly the cause of some concern to the Rhodesian authorities, for a tactless word might have precipitated trouble. Hence, to the general disgust of the contingent, on its arrival at Cape Town an order was issued confining all members to the dock area. Relations and friends were, however, allowed access to the wharf where in the shadows of the troopship *Strathaird*, the last good-byes were said.

After a good voyage the *Strathaird* reached Lagos on 18 October 1939. The draft of the *Strathaird* did not allow her to approach the Apapa Wharf, so disembarkation of men and equipment was carried out by means of tenders.

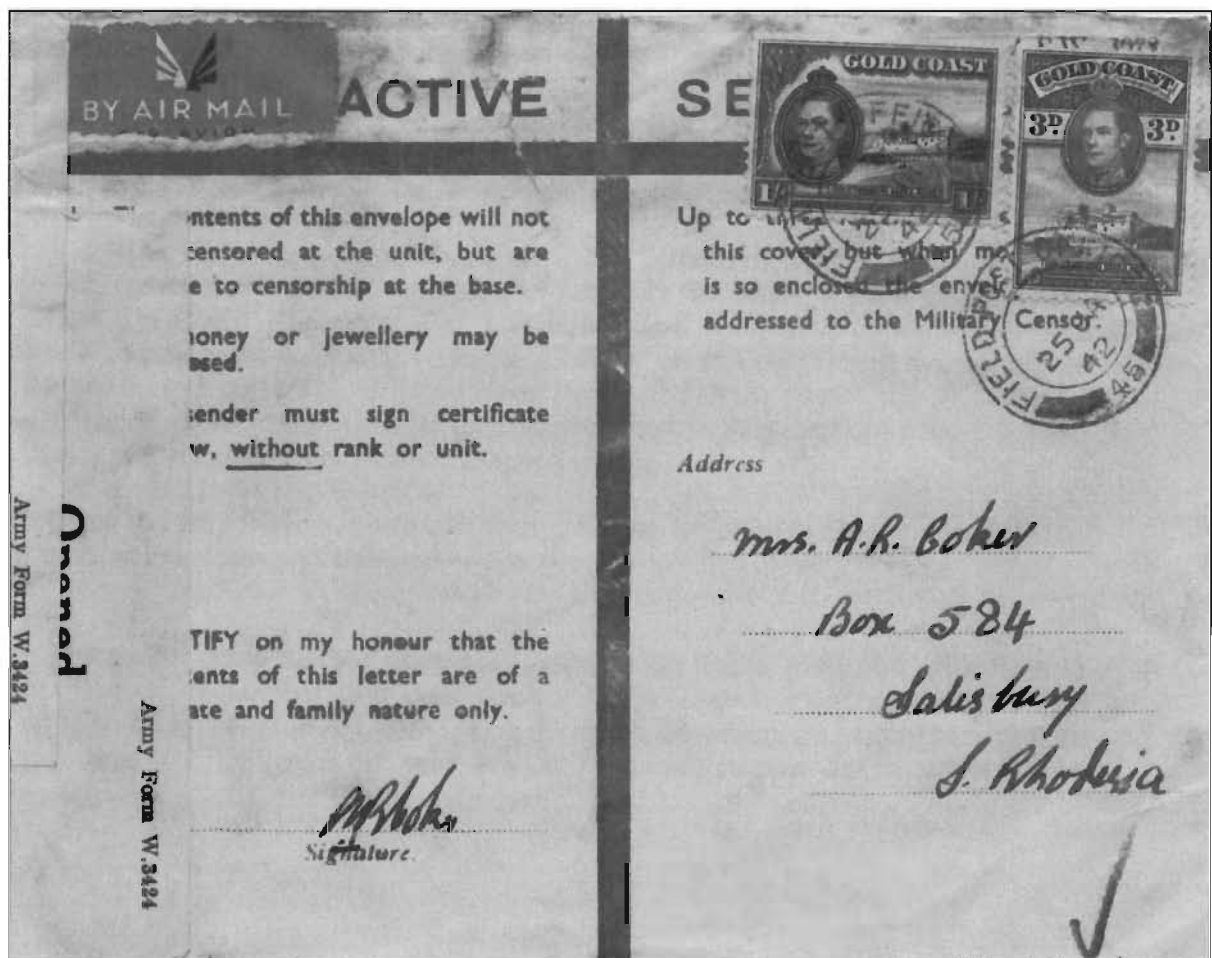


After a day's sightseeing and a reception at Government House, Rhodesians posted to the Nigerian Regiment left that night on their long rail journey to join their units. To each of the three Service Battalions approximately sixty Rhodesian officers and other ranks were posted, those for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion proceeding to Kaduna, those for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion to Kano and those for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion contingent to Zaria.

With the Nigerian contingent safely landed, the *Strathaird* continued its voyage to Takoradi, where a group of a hundred and forty two Rhodesians were disembarked for The Gold Coast Regiment. The contingent was soon split up and members apportioned among several units - to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Teshi Camp near Accra; to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion stationed three hundred miles inland at Tamale and to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion at the seaport of Winneba. Smaller groups remained in Takoradi or joined the Field Company of the Regimental Training Depot.

The remaining Rhodesians posted to Sierra Leone or Gambia Regiments reached their units at Freetown and Bathurst in due course.

The illustrations show honour envelopes used to Southern Rhodesia from Nigeria [Field Post Office number and date unclear but it is almost certainly FPO 46 of Lagos] and Gold Coast [Field Post Office 45 dated 25 January 1942] at the air mail postage rate of 1/3d. I have not seen any mail from the Rhodesians in Sierra Leone or Gambia.



*Editors note:*

*This article was first published in the Summer edition of the Forces Postal History Society Newsletter, and is published here with the consent of John Daynes and Colin Tabcart, Editor of the Newsletter.*



## London Stamp Exchange Limited

2 Castle Street, Salisbury,  
Wilts, SP4 0NA, England

Tel: +44 1722 334421 Fax: +44 1722 334426

E-mail: [info@londonstampex.com](mailto:info@londonstampex.com)

Website: [londonstampex.com](http://londonstampex.com)



### A date for your diary

Our Thursday 17th November 2005 sale comprises a truly worldwide selection of over 1000 lots with single items and attractive groups reasonably estimated for collector and dealer alike with estimates ranging from £20-£3000+.

While most countries are represented there is notable strength in British Africa and the West Indies.

Viewing for the sale will be made available at Philatex and in both our London and Salisbury offices. The sale can also be viewed on our website.

Please contact us for your free catalogue.

## GEORGE VI



We have price lists for the **George VI** period for all the sets and stamps of **West Africa** (including Ascension etc) as well as the more specialised including varieties, complete sheets, booklets, printings, Specimen sets, plate and imprint blocks etc.

### PRICE LIST SENT FREE ON REQUEST

We offer a fast and friendly service with all stamps accurately described.

## ROSS SHIELLS LTD

Established 1895

PO Box 37601, London NW7 2YL

Telephone 020 8349 8048 Fax 020 8349 8636

# Togo Telegrams

John Mayne

Members may know from earlier articles my Togo interest covers both the German Colonial Period 1884 - 1914 and the subsequent Anglo-French Occupation to 29 July 1922 when the British sector was absorbed into the Gold Coast.

For several years I have added to my collection with purchases from German auction houses; few German items come on the English market. One such auction is managed by a former member of WASC, Peter Vogenbeck, who has been of considerable assistance. He holds four auctions a year, the last one No. 59. He currently is researching Ho and the mission there. He will admit his interest in Togo, however, does not include the occupation period.

He recently acquired the first German telegram sent in Togo either of us have seen. It may not reproduce clearly to show that it was stamped on arrival by a LOME (TOGO) cachet matching the LOME Type RH1 and Togo type RH3 in Martin and Walton (Ref. 1). It was sent from Palime 5 August 1914 and has a manuscript 8 August 1914. It is not known if this is the date the telegram was filed by the recipient, or the date it was received by him or indeed by the Lome Post Office. If the latter it is of considerable interest with Lome coming into British control on 7 August.

n. 36 022  
ang Nr. 2  
Telegramm Nr. ....  
Aufgenommen von J.P.M.  
um 2 Uhr 45 Min. am 5. Aug. 1914  
von Palime  
Telegraphie des Deutschen Reichs.  
Amt LOME (TOGO)  
Telegramm aus Ho B. bei um 5 Uhr  
essen vorrat genug  
kein geld mehr hier  
Linder

'enough left to eat, but no money / Linder'

## Reference

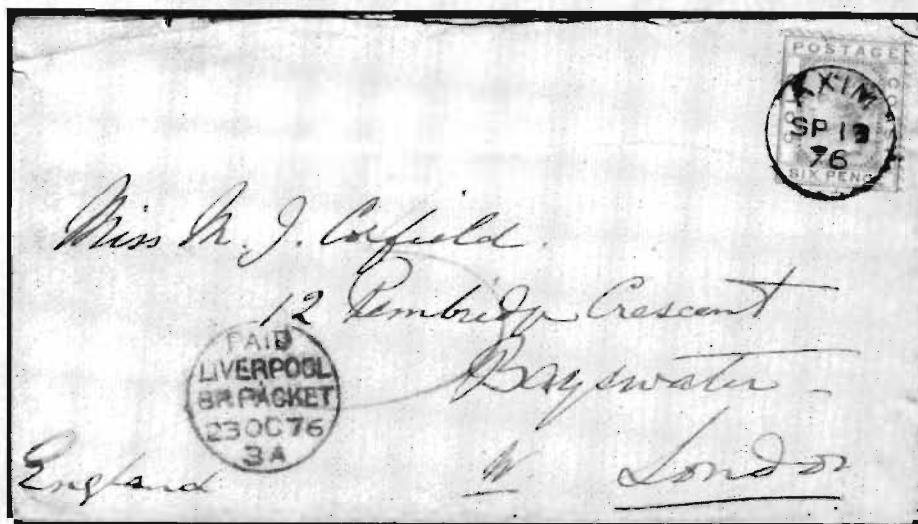
- 1 Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *Togo : The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*, WASC, Sheffield 1995



# West Africa sells well at Cavendish!

The Adrian Cadbury Collection of Gold Coast & The Nigerias, featured in our June Auction, saw some fine prices achieved for West African postal material.

**Rare First Issue 6d franking ex Axim, 1876: £7,500 (est. £1,200)**



**KGV 1921-24 £2 strip on piece: £1,500 (est. £1,200)**

Can we help YOU build – or sell – YOUR Collection?

Contact James Grimwood-Taylor, Ken Baker or Ian Kellock.



CAVENDISH HOUSE,  
153-157, LONDON ROAD,  
DERBY DE1 2SY, ENGLAND  
Tel: 01332 250970 (4 lines; 24hrs.)  
Fax: 01332 294440 :Fax

E-mail: [stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk](mailto:stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk)  
[www.Cavendish-Auctions.com](http://www.Cavendish-Auctions.com)

# Philatelic Auctions...

The Grosvenor team offers a friendly and flexible approach for both buyers and sellers. Directors Andrew Claridge, James Grist and Nick Mansell, Consultants David Boyd and Stuart Billington and Client Liaison Manager Tristan Brittain provide the wealth of experience that you require to bring the very best results.

Our high quality catalogues and extensive international mailing are backed by full exposure of lots on the Internet and worldwide advertising. Prompt payment after auction is guaranteed.

The stamps and postal history of **West Africa** feature regularly in our specialised auctions.

Please contact us to find out more about our exceptionally competitive terms which contain no hidden "extra charges".



## GROSVENOR

AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

399-401 Strand Third Floor London WC2R 0LT

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 · Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 9737

Email: [info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk](mailto:info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk) Website: [www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com)