

CAMEO



The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle





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Front Cover

Sierra Leone Reply Coupons, mint and uncut block of four. See p107

Editorial

Robert Nelson pointed out a significant mistake in the way I produced his article “*Gold Coast WWI censor Tapes*” in *Cameo* 82 and has asked me to reprint it in its corrected form, see pages 83-84 of this issue. I apologise to Robert and all readers who might have tried to make sense of it.

I am sure all our members will join me in congratulating Frank Walton on his recent appointment as the next Vice-president of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. It was all of ten years ago when the Royal asked Frank if he would take over the editorship of the *London Philatelist* (for ten issues a year) and Frank consequently sought me out to become *Cameo* editor in his stead (at that time two issues a year). We were both then in full time employment, so with his example of commitment to philately outside working hours, how could I refuse! I have enjoyed my ten years as editor but I am sure I would not have enjoyed editing ten issues a year, but he will continue to edit the LP alongside his Vice-presidency.

Despite that onerous editorial commitment, Frank has continued to manage the printing and publication of a very healthy output of WASC publications of books, hardback and card-covered, and most recently he became the chairman of this vital WASC Committee. He has now asked to be able to stand down from all his roles with the WASC Publications Committee in order to commit all his energies to the Royal, so we need to recruit new blood to both key roles; chairman and publishing/printing organiser. Barbara Priddy will be interested to hear from anyone, with or without experience, who would like to be considered. See her e-mail address on the previous page.

We can expect the next ten years to be exciting for publishing, as more use is made of electronic media, less of paper, and as copyright becomes a more elusive concept, maybe with Europe following the USA towards the concept of “fair use” of copyright material.



Rob May

The next issue will be edited by Barry Burns, datelined October 2011, and the copy deadline is 1 Sept 2011

Editorial Policy

The editors have the final say over content in *Cameo* in the interests of balance and relevance to the readership. Space in each *Cameo* may be limited as compared with the volume of material submitted by all the authors. The editors retain discretion over punctuation, spelling, grammar, use of colour for illustrations and whether to reduce the size of illustrations to fit the space available, but should not change wording, delete text or delete illustrations without full knowledge and permission of the author. If the editors consider amendment or deletion of text or removal of illustrations to be necessary they will discuss it with contributors. If contributors are then unhappy with proposed changes they can withdraw their items.

Rob May / Barry Burns

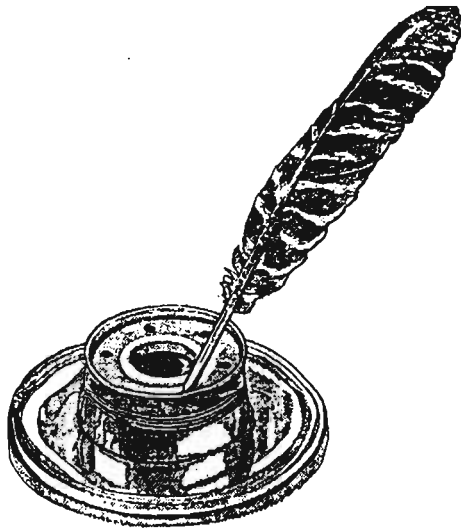
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Webmaster is Ray Harris; contact harris6@which.net



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.

Rob May & Barry Burns

Lagos Post Office

Dear Rob,

I wish to add some information to two of the illustrations in the useful article by Bob Maddocks, "Lagos Post Office", *Cameo*, 11(6), October 2010, pp393-394.

First, the postcard of the old post office in figure 1 must be from 1902 or later, given the lines of the steam tramway laid in the streets outside (Ref N.S. Miller, *Lagos Steam Tramway, 1902-33*).

As regards figure 3, the public counter of the new General Post Office in Lagos was opened on 12 September 1960, and the new sorting office commenced operations there on 29 March 1961 (Ref. *Nigeria Posts & Telegraphs Annual Report, 1960-61*, p7). And a few days later, "the first and second floors of the new Lagos General Post Office were brought into use on 3 April 1961" (Ref. *Nigeria Posts & Telegraphs Annual Report, 1960-61*, p7).

Dr Simon Heap
Oxford

Forged Togo Postal Stationery

Dear Rob,

Regarding John Mayne's article about forged Togo postal stationery on pages 14-16 of *Cameo*, January 2011, the two German Togo cancels are lifted right out of the Friedmann handbook! Judging from the illustrations, I suspect the postmarks are photocopies. Examination under magnification should reveal the tell-tale characteristics of a photocopy. There is too much forged material being offered these days on ebay and other routes. I have seen quite a number of items for Kamerun/Cameroun and many have separated good money from purchasers.

Martin Bratzel
Windsor, Ont, Canada

1900 registered postmark of IDA

Dear Mr Redhead

I saw and read with interest your letter in the January 2011 *Cameo*. I have another example of IDA REGISTERED, dated 7 August. They are indeed very rare. Although my copy is a partial strike, it exhibits the same broken first 0 in 00 (1900) as does yours'.

Robert Nelson
Cashel, Eire

Ed—Michael Ensor also e-mailed Paul Redhead to report another example, dated 20 MY 00 to confirm the use of this mark in 1900 is genuine.

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 Duggan
- Lagos - John Sacher
- Maritime - John Knight
- Nigerias to 1914 - John Sacher
- Nigeria post 1914 - Tony Plumbe
- St. Helena - Bernard Mabbett
- Sierra Leone - Frank Walton & Peter Rolfe
- Togo - Jeremy Martin

Publications committee chairman —
Frank Walton

Inbound to Gambia WW2 article

Dear Rob,

Firstly, congratulations upon a fine issue (which I abstract for *France & Colonies Journal*) and for the excellent summary of the Gambia query by Stewart Duncan and yourself. I am flattered to have a mention in the article but I must honestly point out in my answer to your query in the *F&C Journal* that it was Jacques Meriaux' paper that appeared in *L'Echo* (prior to Bertrand Sinais' Handbook), to which I referred, not my own.

Colin Spong

Ed—Bill Mitchell also responded by letter to clarify this article, but has now produced a further article for both journals, which will appear first in the F&CPS Journal, then the October Cameo

Our links with auctioneers

Dear Rob,

John Sacher recently sold part of his collection via Spink. The company has a representative as a member of WASC and should therefore be aware of those in the Study Circle who collect Togo, for example. I was unable to view their auction site (computer problems) but I telephoned Spink on 6 December only for the catalogue to arrive after the sale. When I saw it I knew at once that Robert Nelson was another vendor of a substantial part of this sale, and I would have wanted to make bids.

My concern is that these catalogues were not routinely sent to WASC members based on their collecting interests. This sale was admittedly advertised in *Cameo* but others may not be. I assume that member information can be passed on to auctioneers in such circumstances and if I had been the vendor I would be unhappy that key buyers had been missed. I asked the auctioneers to comment, but they have not done so. Should this be raised at a committee meeting?

John Mayne
Bridgnorth

Ed. It has been discussed by the Committee. Every so often the printing cycle of Cameo falls wrongly for a key auction of West African material to be advertised in Cameo. The latest example has been the "John Rose Gambia" on 23 May 2011 which came to notice after the January Cameo was printed. When that happens, we do provide, on request, membership address labels so that sale catalogues can be posted to interested members. This is how the catalogue for the John Rose sale came to land on

members' doormats recently. Grosvenor has also been kind enough to insert an advert for WASC into the catalogue, for which I take this opportunity to express our thanks. As Spink were able to place an advert in Cameo in time for the Sacher sale, it was expected that interested members would call them for a catalogue, so in that case no link to the membership list was called for.

We can offer any auction house the chance to advertise sales on our website, www.wasc.org.uk, or to build a weblink. Anyone interested should contact our webmaster, Ray Harris (see page 66).

Double Atlantic Mail and the Dutch

Dear Rob,

In Bob Wilcsek's article "Double Atlantic mail from the Dutch East Indies" (*Cameo*, 12(1), January 2011, pp54-59) his figure 4 on page 58 showed a mysterious Dutch language table of rates. I have a suggestion as to its origin, but no proof. In 1990 a Dutch couple, the Tschroots, published a massive 768 page hardback anthology of Dutch aerophilately (Ref. 1). This was labelled volume 1 and covered the period up to 1935. It was my understanding that volume 2 was written, extending the timeline, but that a publisher could not be found. Volume 1 was produced using a typewriter-like font (Courier?) just as in this table at figure 4. perhaps it has come from the un-published master copy of volume 2?

Reference

1. JLCM Tschroots & HHC Tschroots-Boer, "Luchtvaart en Luchtpost encyclopedie, deel 1", Amsterdam 1990.

Richard Beith
Auchterarder, Scotland

Kamerun C.E.F. error

Dear Rob,

My update no. 4 in the October 2010 *Cameo* regarding the CEF overprints on Kamerun yacht stamps contains an error. On page 399, for the discussion about the 2½d double overprint on 25 pfennig stamp, I wrote that the overprint on the stamp accompanied by a Diena certificate "does match" the overprint on the other 25 pfennig stamps to hand. My mistake—the word "not" has been inadvertently omitted. In my opinion they do NOT match!

Martin Bratzel
Windsor, Ont, Canada

Fig. 1 (reduced):
first flight airmail cover
Gambia to New York
with back-stamps
showing that it was
returned to Gambia on 20
February 1942, by which
time the Imperial censor
was operating at Bathurst.



Gambia Imperial Censorship in WWII

Dear Rob,

My letter in *Cameo* January 2011 regarding the mystery surrounding the apparently early use of the P.203 censor mark in Bathurst has been finally resolved thanks to a response from the owner of the cover shown at Figure 1 (who shall remain unidentified to protect his reputation).

Martin & Walton listed the earliest recorded date of P.203 as being 9 December, 1941, which seemed very strange given that my recent research on the censorship arrangements in Gambia showed that the Imperial Censors did not arrive in Bathurst until February 1942. Inspection of the cover carrying the date of 9 December 1941 revealed that indeed the adhesives (3/9d) were cancelled in Bathurst on that date but the cover was sent to a *poste restante* address in New York from which it was returned to sender with an arrival strike of Bathurst registered on 20 February 1942. It would seem therefore that the cover was intended as a first flight item on the Pan American Leopoldville to Miami service and was returned by surface transport (as is the norm) to arrive back in Bathurst in late February 1942.

Two things arise from this; it now seems clear that the P.203 mark was applied to this cover on or around 20 February and not on 9 December, and secondly that with the announcement by Frank Walton that he and Jeremy Martin are contemplating an update to their work on West African censor marks, it would be a good time to expand the records along the lines of Kurt Morenweiser's work so that details of the covers from which information was derived could be included in the updated book.

This neatly illustrates one of my basic rules of research; if you want information, the best course of action is to publish and wait for the feedback. A second rule everyone should apply when reading a published work is to ask "How does he know that?" As we have found in recently published "definitive" works on airmails, application of this question has revealed serious problems of inaccuracy and misinterpretation.

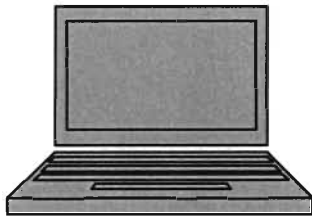
Well done "*Cameo*"
John Wilson
Barnstaple

John Kizell from Sierra Leone

Dear Rob,

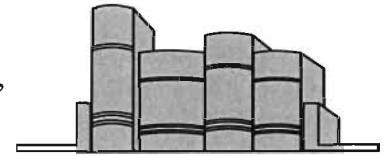
A few WASC members may be interested in knowing about my book, *The African American Odyssey of John Kizell*, which will be released in May by the University of South Carolina Press. It is already listed on Amazon.co.uk. The book has nothing to do with postal history, but it does provide a fresh look at the early colonial history of Sierra Leone. It traces the life and times of a Sierra Leonean, enslaved in South Carolina, who joined the British military during the American Revolution and ultimately returned to his homeland, where he became actively engaged in fighting the slave trade. I taught history in a Freetown secondary school in 1963-65. I was encouraged to write the book by the late Christopher Fyfe, to whom the book is dedicated. Sierra Leone, as you know, celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence this year.

Kevin Lowther
Springfield, VA, USA




Sources

Views expressed by reviewers are their own,
and are not endorsed by WASC or
the editors of Cameo



For all WASC book orders and payments please contact the Treasurer (address on contents page). Authors will distribute their own new publications to members, whilst distribution of purchases from older stock is arranged via the Treasurer.

 *Cameroun in the Great War: volume III - the Homeward Mail*, by Dudley Cobb, published by the author, 2010, ISBN 2-9511613-3-6. 134 pages with over 70 monochrome illustrations, A4, card covers, perfect bound. UK price £40, post paid from the author, Les Capsades, F-09140 Couflens, France or cobbweb@wanadoo.fr

Reviewed by Rob May.


This book follows a similar format to Mr Cobb's previous two in this series; having text in both English and French. It differs in as much as the monochrome illustrations are spread throughout the text in both languages, with bilingual captions wherever each appears, instead of having colour illustrations in the centre section. It is not difficult for the reader to adjust to this, whilst it has clearly saved cost.

The author has been diverted from his main study of the postage stamps issued by the French contingent of the Anglo-French military operation, by the need to explain the postal routes used for mails from these occupying forces to France and Britain and incidentally to intermediate ports. Bob Maddocks has previously studied the British archives of this campaign and written a chronology in his book "*Postal Arrangements of the Cameroons Expeditionary Force*". Now Dudley Cobb has made many more discoveries in the French archives, some of which have now been published in this book, with more to come. As regards the external mail routes and the conduct of the campaign, the two authors' work is complementary and students of this fascinating period of postal and military history should use both resources.

Cobb's book identifies, again as a chronology month by month between October 1914 and March 1916, the shipping movements in and out of the Wouri River or at the sea anchorage at Souellaba Point. This allows postal historians to connect the postmark dates (but not all French postmarks are dated!) on outgoing mail with the various forms of shipping that were pressed into mail-carrying duties. The much scarcer inbound mails can also be allocated by route into French Cameroun or British Cameroons, although this is not the main purpose of Dudley Cobb's research.

Although militarily this was a joint force, the postal arrangements of the French and British contingents always operated separately at Duala (in addition to the entirely distinct postal arrangements for fighting forces in the East, far South and North West of the country). Much of the British mail was sent by coastal steamers to a Nigerian port to await an Elder Dempster steamer home, whilst the French Line Chargeurs Réunis, was directed to call at Souellaba from February 1915 to serve the French contingent's various needs. There was a Naval blockade of the Wouri River and it can now be seen that French Naval ships also had a role in handling mails, as well as generating homeward mails from their crews (as discussed in Volume II).

The quality of research and clarity of presentation are well up to Dudley Cobb's earlier standards. This book can be recommended as a source for military, maritime and postal historians. This reviewer looks forward to the next instalment.


 *West Africa in the British Library Philatelic Collections, a listing of material held for Ascension, Cameroons, Fernando Po, the Gambia, Ghana, Gold Coast, Lagos, Niger Coast Protectorate, Niger Company Territories, Nigeria, Northern Nigeria, Oil Rivers Protectorate, St. Helena, Sierra Leone, Southern Nigeria, Togo and Tristan da Cunha to 2000*, by Jeremy Martin FRPSL and John Powell, published 2010 by West Africa Study Circle. ISBN 978-1905647040, hard bound, 176p, price £45 + p&p £4.30 UK, £6 overseas surface, £6.50 Europe, £11.50 rest of the world by air.

Reviewed by David R. Beech FRPSL (*this review first appeared in The London Philatelist*)

The project to list material at the British Library Philatelic Collections from West Africa was the idea of Jeremy Martin FRPSL and John Powell, of the West Africa Study Circle, and was supported by the Circle, especially Philip Beale FRPSL and Frank Walton FRPSL, chairmen of its Publications Committee and they have shown clear leadership in encouraging access to, and understanding of, this research material. Such work takes time and dedication to compile, and the publication of this book will be of advantage to generations of philatelists.

The authors have examined material from twenty of the philatelic collections at the British Library containing West African material, and have listed, in a structured and chronological order, their findings. The listing includes postage stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, postal orders, stamp booklets, postage dues etc., in the various stages of production from artwork, essays, proofs, colour trials, specimens to the issued items. The largest chapter covers the Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive, and is the first time that any part of this archive has been listed to a philatelic standard, and includes the vital requisition numbers which relate to BL printing records. The reviewer has contributed text entitled Background to the British Library Philatelic Collections and Philp Beale has written chapter 1, being an introduction to the Crown Agents, who produced much of the material for the countries involved.

The book is well designed, and helpful headings make it simple to us. A total of 16 colour plates illustrate the types or classes of material covered. A bibliography gives information about the standard works covering the subjects. A good index collates the listings for those interested in searching by country or philatelic subject. Essential for the collector or researcher of West African material.

 *Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920-1945*, by Robert E Picirilli. Published by the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (GB), 2011. ISBN 0-9519601-6-4. 226pp + CD, price £25 + p & p. Available from Peter Maybury, 18 Courtneys, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6BR, UK; email: publications@fcps.org.uk. This book has been published with the support of the Stuart Rossiter Trust.

Reviewed by Barbara Priddy

This book is the outcome of many years of research and discussion by a group of French colonial airmail collectors on both sides of the Atlantic, led by the author, who circulated a newsletter detailing the progress of the group's research. This publication is a magnificent achievement and is an indispensable work of reference for anyone interested not only in aerophilately but in surface mail, as it contains tables of both basic postal rates and airmail surcharges from France and French colonies to countries worldwide. Included in these are of course the British West African territories.

Chapter One explains how French airmail rates were calculated, and includes the vital tables of French basic postage rates to which the airmail surcharges were added. Chapter Two, by Derek Richardson, whose book 'Tables of French Postal Rates' is already, I hope, in the library of every collector, contains the tables for airmail surcharges on mail from France, while Chapters Three to Nineteen contain the tables for basic postage rates and airmail surcharges from the French territories of Algeria, Cameroun (by Martin Bratzel), French Equatorial Africa, French Guiana, French India, French Indochina, French Levant, French Morocco, French Oceania, French Somaliland, French West Africa, Guadeloupe, Madagascar and Reunion (by John Parmenter and Colin Spong), Martinique, New Caledonia, St. Pierre & Miquelon, and Tunisia. These turn up quite a few surprises: did you know, for example, that from June 1935 the French/Belgian trans-Saharan airmail service would carry mail from Algeria with a surtax of 1fr 50 per 5g for Nigeria, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone (but not Gambia)? The references for all dates and rates cited in the tables, which are taken from the *Journaux Officiels* or *Bulletins Officiels* of the various territories, supplemented and confirmed by the AV1 Liste of the UPU, are scrupulously documented in the Appendix, and full references for all sources cited in the text are given in the Bibliography. Where the original sources contained ambiguity, for example in the naming of destinations, or where changes do not appear to be officially documented, extensive footnotes to the tables are provided. There are over 100 illustrations of covers supporting the various tables, with analysis of the rates paid.

Of particular interest to West African philatelists is the chapter on Cameroun by Marty Bratzel: those interested probably already have his earlier work 'The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration, 1916 -1959', but this chapter provides a concise easy-to-use summary for a difficult territory.

The chapters also contain an introduction to the airmail routes available from each territory during the period. Inevitably, specialists may find some of this a bit sweeping, or, in the case of the difficult wartime period, a bit sketchy. Our knowledge of the development of, and changes to, routes is increasing all the time thanks to these and other researchers, and collectors will find it helpful to use the tables in conjunction with articles published in *Cameo*, *Air Mail News*, *Air Post Journal* and the journals of other specialist societies.

A most welcome addition to the book is a disk prepared by John Parmenter and issued free on request to purchasers. This contains, for each of Chapters Three to Nineteen, an Adobe Acrobat file of colour illustrations of the covers featured in black and white in the book, with comments by Bob Picirilli, and a Microsoft Excel database of details of all the covers catalogued by contributors to the group, which in total runs into many thousands.

A vast amount of original research has been undertaken and diligently collated, and one can only congratulate the authors and publishers on a well-conceived enterprise which has resulted in a model philatelic publication.



Sierra Leone 2½d on 2s, by Frank L Walton FRPSL . Published by the West Africa Study Circle, 2010. ISBN 0-9781-905647-08-8. 64pp, all colour, card covers. Price £16 + p & p. £2 UK, £3 worldwide surface, £3 air Europe, £4.50 air worldwide. If paying by Paypal there is a £1 supplement.

Reviewed by Philip Quirk

By far the scarcest of the 1897 surcharges of Sierra Leone is the 2½d on 2s, SG 67-71, with only 240 stamps printed. Fortunately for posterity, the rarity of the stamps was recognised immediately, resulting in a survival rate that is much higher than average. Following painstaking research, Frank Walton has tracked down no fewer than 138 copies of this issue. As if thoroughly documenting the circumstances of the issue and illustrating and detailing the provenance of each stamp were not enough, he has gone on meticulously to reconstruct the eight half-sheets of 30, producing a group of fascinating photo-montages.

Interest in this book should not be confined to those readers fortunate enough to possess one of these stamps! The same overprint forme was used for the 2½d on 1s, and Frank's study of the uncatalogued positional varieties is equally relevant to these stamps. From the 22 examples of the Type A overprint in each half-sheet, 8 positions can be distinguished through constant characteristics of the surcharge, along with further marginal positions if the sheet edges are present or the overprint bars shifted.

The book has been produced to a high standard. Almost inevitably, there is the odd instance where an image has been misplaced. One stamp appears to have been duplicated: A-06 from Sheet IV Bottom has also been allocated to A-14 from Sheet I Bottom, but the excellent quality of the illustrations shows that it lacks the square full stop characteristic of position 14, and that its perforations do not quite mesh with those of the neighbouring stamps in Sheet I. These minor slips notwithstanding, the book is a *tour de force*, which adds immeasurably to our knowledge of these fascinating stamps.



Gambia Perforated Cameos—a Study of the Consignments and Printings of the Perforated Cameo Stamps of Gambia 1880-1898, by John F Rose. Just published by the West Africa Study Circle, 2011. Price £45 + p & p. £4 UK, £6 worldwide surface, £6.50 air Europe, £11.50 air worldwide. If paying by Paypal there is a £1 supplement.

An order form at reduced rate for WASC members is enclosed with this issue and it is hoped that a review will appear in the next issue of *Cameo*.



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 may feel might be of interest to other members. Articles which we hope to reproduce in *Cameo* at a future date are not listed here.

London Philatelist, Volume 120, number 1383, March 2011,

pp68-71, Clive Akerman, *The Rise and Fall of Philatelic Publishing*

Volume 120, number 1384, April 2011

pp105-117, David L Heerenden, James A Allen & Thomas Lera, *Philatelic Shade Discrimination based on Measured Colour*. Note also editorial corrections on page 153, May 2011.

Volume 120, number 1385, May 2011

pp142-152, Andrew Higson & Michael Rutherford, *The Army Telegraphs Cancellation*. WASC members may want to refer also to Michael Wright's article in *Cameo* Vol. 11, no. 5, June 2010, pp329-331.

Volume 120, number 1386, June 2011

pp186-190, John Sacher, *Sierra Leone Registered Mail 1853-1877*.

Journal of the France & Colonies PS, Volume 61, number 1, March 2011,

p32, Bob Maddocks, *More Gremlin activity in Cameroun Philately: Cameroon Airlines et al* (editorial correction of the article of that title that was published in the December 2010 issue)

West Africa in the British Library Philatelic Collections

Jeremy Martin FRPSL & John Powell

This book was published in 2010 by the West Africa Study Circle (see book review p70). Some more material became available for study in November 2010. The following is a supplement to page 116 of the above book.

The Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive.

Gold Coast Revenues

1936 Seven examples, numbered 1-7, embossed dies for registration, orange-red oval 20 x 30mm; inscribed GOLD COAST / TWO PENCE / STAMP DUTY, each with a date plug 28.2.36, brought into use 28 February 1936 (Fig. 1). [These can be found in the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive, List 1, Volume 31, page 26]



Figure 1

**Nigeria
Revenues**

1923 Seven examples, numbered 1-7, embossed dies for registration, cobalt oval 20 x 30mm; inscribed NIGERIA / TWO PENCE / STAMP DUTIES each with a date plug 2.5.23 with "Ordered that the Dies, of which the above are impressions, be brought into use"

There are small differences:

- Die 1 – two Maltese crosses
- Die 2 – one Maltese cross and a capital A
- Die 3 – one Maltese cross and a capital B
- Die 4 – one Maltese cross and a capital C
- Die 5 – one Maltese cross and a capital D
- Die 6 – one Maltese cross and a capital E
- Die 7 – one Maltese cross and a capital F

(Fig. 2)

[These dies can be found in the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive, List 1, Volume 30, page 5]

Figure 2

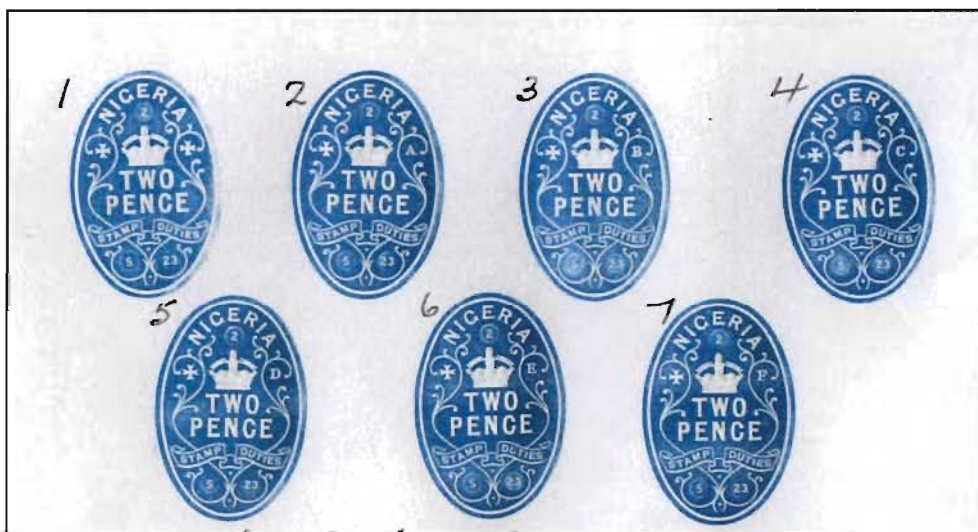


Figure 3



1938 Six examples, numbered 8-13, embossed dies for registration, orange-red oval 26 x 30mm, inscribed NIGERIA / STAMP DUTY / value / BILL OR NOTE, each with a date plug 15.11.38, "Six new dies for registration".

Die 8 – TWO PENCE with two Maltese crosses

Die 9 – TWO PENCE with one Maltese cross and a capital A

Die 10 – SIX PENCE with two Maltese crosses

Die 11 – SIX PENCE with one Maltese cross and a capital A

Die 12 – ONE SHILLING with two Maltese crosses

Die 13 – ONE SHILLING with one Maltese cross and a capital A (Fig. 3)

[These dies can be found in the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive, List 1, Volume 31, page 43]

Our thanks are due to Paul Skinner, Curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections, for his help. Images in figures 1-3 are copyright to the British Library and are reproduced with permission.



Cameroons: use of German Taxe handstamps

Rob May

There has been a lively debate in the pages of the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, partly found also in *Cameo* (Refs 1-5), about the origin and use in French Cameroun of a tax mark in the form of "T." in a rectangular box. John Mayne had recognised this as a German style of hand-stamp, but until Bob Maddocks' article there had been no evidence of its' presence in pre-WWI Kamerun post offices for use on covers posted during the German period. All the contributors to those articles now agree that this is an old hand-stamp, first made available during the German period, then pressed back into use many years later at some (as yet unspecified) post office in French Cameroun.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a British Cameroons cover I purchased from the latest WASC auction. This shows another example of the same German-style “Boxed T.” hand-stamp, apparently with more rounded corners to the frame. The letter was posted at Muyuka on 22 SE 1960 (cancelled with Maddocks No.98 – Ref 6) addressed to Philadelphia, USA with an air mail label affixed but franked only 2d; clearly underpaid. The only back-stamp is Buea Cameroons / U.U.K.A.(Maddocks No.39 – Ref 6) dated 23 SE 1960, so it is not clear whether this letter was diverted to surface mail.

In this case it is probable that this hand-stamp was held at Buea post office (in the case of this cover, struck in transit in the likely absence of a T mark available at Muyuka) but Maddocks also entertains the possibility that it could have been relocated to Victoria from Douala (Ref 5). Maddocks illustrates what looks like the same hand-stamp in use on a 22 AU 1933 cover from Buea to Huddersfield and reports seeing the identical mark on another cover posted at Buea on 15 August 1944 (ref 6, p 116).

It was customary for the Germans to destroy their postal inventory before evacuation or surrender, so most post offices were, of necessity, fully re-equipped by the French and British administrations. However Buea was left at least partly equipped and covers using the German BUEA / KAMERUN postmark are well-known, including (but not only) philatelic confections made in 1921. Bob Maddocks (Ref 7) has quoted verbatim four letters from the Engineer in Chief (Posts and Telegraphs) at Victoria, one of which dated 14 April 1916, includes “*The Date Stamps for the Post Offices and Telegraph Offices: - none of any sort at Victoria and only one German date-stamp at Buea.*”

References

1. Mayne J. & May R., “Cameroun – re-use of ex-German Taxe mark”, *Cameo*, Volume 10 pp 109-110, WASC, June 2007
2. May R., letter “Ex-German Taxe Mark” , *Cameo*, Volume 10, p123, WASC, October 2007
3. Bratzel, M., “Cameroun *taxe* marks”, *Journal of F&CPS*, Volume 57 pp124-126, December 2007
4. Mayne, J. & Bratzel, M., “German *taxe* marks on Togo and Cameroon Mail”, *Journal of F&CPS*, Volume 58 pp41-42, June 2008
5. Maddocks R.J., “German *taxe* Marks on Togo and Cameroon Mail”, *Cameo*, Volume 11, pp153-155, October 2009
6. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961*, p116, MPB Canada 1994
7. Maddocks R.J. & Bratzel M.P., *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration 1916-1961 Supplement*, pp91-92, MPB Canada 2007



Gold Coast: GB overprinted QV registered PS envelopes

Rob May

I have seen an e-mail correspondence between GB Overprint Society members John Gledhill, Tony Stanford and Colin Baker which I forwarded to Peter Horlyck. John Gledhill had noticed that a used (in 1905) QV Gold Coast overprinted envelope did not completely match the GB types illustrated in Colin Baker’s book in that it did not have an insurance table on the reverse. The Higgins & Gage catalogue does not describe the reverse of these envelopes, so he wanted to know what would be normal for these.

Colin replied that it is normal for the Gold Coast envelopes not to have the insurance table. They would need to have been created by a special printing, because the British ones of this design and period always include the table of compensation. He thinks this would be because compensation was not offered for mail from the Gold Coast at that time. Peter Horlyck confirms that the one example of these envelopes he owns also lacks the compensation table.

A reference to Ensor (Ref 1) might help. He writes “*The Gold Coast’s adherence to the Insured Letter Agreement of the Postal Union led to regulations being made in June 1903 for the insurance of letters posted initially at 11 offices.*” Use of old stock in 1905, after this change in regulations, seems very West African!

Reference:

1. Ensor M. (Ed), *The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957*, p84, WASC, Dronfield 1998

Northern Nigeria Postal Administration, 1903

Dr Simon Heap

In March 1903, the new Postmaster of Northern Nigeria, James Somerville, submitted a lengthy confidential *Report on the Post Office* to the local colonial administration. He detailed what he had found regarding the post and telegraphs systems in the colony since his arrival there on 8 November 1902. (Ref. 1) The report was commented on by secretariat officials and recommendations for reform made, but this article concentrates on what the state of the postal system was like at the time through Somerville's words. Although sometimes prone to exaggeration to make the point, his report reveals several matters about the formative colonial postal system in Northern Nigeria which had begun in 1900.

Somerville's report opens with statements on the chaotic, fledgling postal system in place in the early years of the colonial administration:

On taking up duty at Lokoja I found that the Post Office had never been organised by any person who had the least knowledge of Postal Organisation, or indeed of the rudiments of accounting. The system of issuing stamps to outstations as they are asked for and of never requiring proof that the money realized by their sale had been paid into the Treasury must have been originated by a lunatic and carried on by fools. No disciplinary measures have ever been adopted. The officers evidently came and went when they liked. There is no record whatsoever of the errors committed by them and no measures have ever been taken to check their work. I cannot find in the whole office any papers relating to cases dealt with and beyond the mere record of the receipt and despatch of minute papers there is no record of any correspondence. (Ref. 2)

While he then reveals "an accumulation of the most expensive instruments used in Telegraph work – instruments that could never be used here", tools for the smooth running of the post were rare:

It is extraordinary that instead of those instruments someone did not think of getting a few parcel and letter scales. There are only two each of these in the Protectorate!!

Post office furniture was "plenty... but of the wrong sort", and concludes "No one who has ever been inside a Post Office would put up sorting boxes like those in this office [instead of walking up and down in front of a row of pigeon holes]."

There were no mail registers:

There have never been Inland Mail Bills in use and the Clerk sometimes sends a slip of paper as a bill or if he prefers wires beforehand that he is sending so many Registered Letters. If neither wire nor slip is received it is the practice to consider that no registered articles have been despatch. No records whatsoever of the Mails despatched or received is kept. A mail is considered due when it arrives. Some of the small mails despatches to here may never have arrived. There is nothing here to show that they did, and I am sure there is no record of their despatch at the sending offices.

Somerville then lists the inadequacies of the postal staff:

The Clerks employed at the Post Office Lokoja have never been instructed in Postal Duties, they can sell stamps and sort letters after a fashion, but if you ask one of them to tie up a bundle of letters he does not know how and is perfectly helpless if told to tie up a mail bag without using two or three yards of string.

And,

They have no knowledge whatsoever of Post Office rules. The Parcel Post Clerk says that he has frequently sent to England parcels without having stamps affixed, which is of course contrary to the rudimentary rules for Parcel Post. My attention was drawn to the matter by receiving a report from the London office.

And,

The clerks at the out offices have no knowledge of postal work and are utterly incapable of keeping even a record of the stamps they sell.

The last statement got a rebuke in a minute to the report:

Residents, being in charge of Outstation Post Offices, are unfortunate. It is absurd to say that their clerks cannot even keep a record of stamps sales. I am glad to see that the Postmaster is aware to the chaos and ignorance in the Post Offices but it is bad enough without the addition of exaggeration.

Somerville then commented on postmasters:

Mr Nicol, the Assistant Postmaster, is a careful and fairly reliable officer, he however, knows very little of Postal work and is very slow. Under a few months' instruction he may develop into a fairly good official.

Mr Wilson – I reported on in other papers.

Mr Pratt – the Parcel Post Clerk is reliable and careful. He knows even less of postal work than Mr Nicol but attends to instructions he received well.

Somerville requested a doubling in the number of current postal officials: as he says, to sort out “*this muddle, it is necessary to reorganise or rather organise the Postal Department from the beginning*”: a Postmaster (European), an Assistant Postmaster (European), 5 inspectors and 6 postal clerks (5 for Lokoja and 1 for Zungeru).

He admitted the difficulty of controlling outstations:

The great difficulty of properly controlling arises from the fact that officials are spread over a very large area and to a great extent are allowed to carry on their work as they wish, with the natural result that the work is not properly done. I know from experience that it is absolutely necessary for an official who has a full knowledge of Postal and Telegraph work to visit and completely overhaul outlying offices at frequent intervals.

I may perhaps point out that all the proposals I have submitted are those my experience in the United Kingdom has proved to be absolutely necessary for Postal administration and I beg that they may be sanctioned as soon as possible, so that I may start at once to get the Postal work into at least tolerable condition. At present as I have pointed out it is in a hopeless muddle, and it must take some months before it is properly organized.

Somerville concludes: “*Altogether I have never imagined that such a muddle could be made of a Post Office.*”

A Secretariat minute replies:

Begin at once – do not wait for the Millennium or a staff not provided in the Estimates. You must work (as all have to do here) with the staff provided...and make the best of it..

James Somerville must have made the best of this situation, as he continued until he transferred on 31 October 1910 to become the Post Master General of the Gold Coast.

References

1. Jack Ince and John Sacher, *The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region*. London: RPSL, 1992, p261.
2. All quotations from Nigerian Archives Kaduna [NAK], Secretary, Northern Provinces [SNP] 18/1/23G/1903, James Somerville, Postmaster, Northern Nigeria, to Captain P. W. Anderson, Acting Secretary, Northern Nigeria, Zungeru, 16 March 1903.



A 1912 Postal Stationery Envelope from Sierra Leone to the Belgian Congo

Philip Quirk

A 2010 purchase from Lugdunum Philatélie is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1: Front of Boyera cover

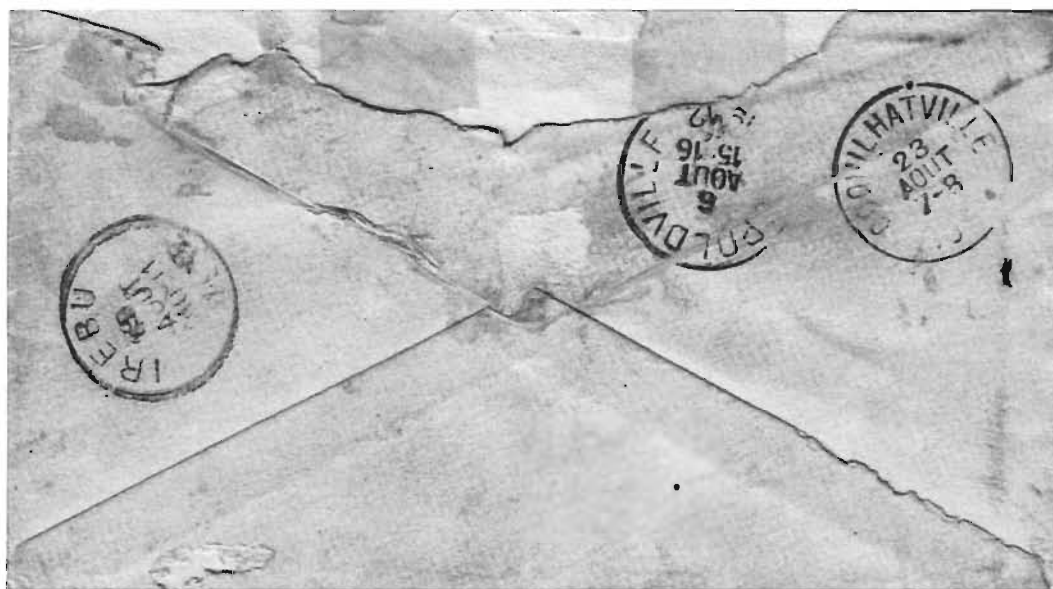


Figure 2: Reverse of Boyera cover, showing the Belgian Congo backstamps.

The unusual destination of the cover, together with the three backstamps, led me to attempt to track its journey. Following despatch from Wilberforce, Sierra Leone, on 11 July 1912, the Edward VII indicium was cancelled the same day at Freetown. After arriving in the Belgian Congo, the cover received backstamps from Leopoldville (6 August), Irebu (19 August) and Coquilhatville (23 August). It is addressed to a Mr. I. Fraser Bedford, Boyera, c/o S.C.F.A., Irebu, Belgian Congo. The S.C.F.A. was probably a trading company, but I have so far been unable to trace its identity.

Unfortunately, Proud's lists (Ref.1) cease to show the ships of the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo calling at Freetown after 1911, so the identity of the vessel that carried the letter to the Belgian Congo remains unknown. Likewise, there is no transit cancel from any of the possible entry ports: Banana, Boma and Matadi. We can, however, be certain that the cover travelled by rail between Matadi and Leopoldville, as the Congo River is not navigable between these points, and it is perhaps most likely that the ship docked at Matadi.

As can be seen from the map in Figure 3, Irebu is situated just over 600 km upstream of Leopoldville (now Kinshasa). At the turn of the 20th century, it was the site of a military training camp for recruits to the Congo Public Force. In a 1905 book (Note 2), H.W. Wack relates how a Belgian lieutenant, Jeuniaux, "built other houses for his lieutenants and white non-coms., and a residency for himself, and a guest house large and comfortable, and post-office, state stores, guard-house, pharmacy, armoury, and houses for all the other whites. One by one they were built, and Jeuniaux, now Commandant Jeuniaux, and his ever-changing pupils built them all, until he had realised his ambition, and had constructed a model station."

The sequence of backstamps indicates that the cover was forwarded from Irebu to Coquilhatville (now Mbandaka), 114 km up river. After a good deal of on-line searching, I succeeded in locating a village called Boyera at (0° 38' S, 19° 25' E), approximately 200 km SE of Coquilhatville on the Momboyo River, a tributary of the Congo (Note 3). It is plausible that the letter would have taken a further 19 days to travel this distance, as evidenced by the "Recd. 11/9/12 Boyera I.F.B." manuscript marking on the front. This leg of the journey would almost certainly have been by private carrier; presumably the S.C.F.A. had forwarding arrangements in place.

What Mr. Bedford was doing in such an out-of-the-way spot must remain a mystery, unless any member can shed further light on S.C.F.A.'s activities in the Belgian Congo. Considering the arduous journey it had to undertake, I hope that the travel-staining of the cover can be forgiven.

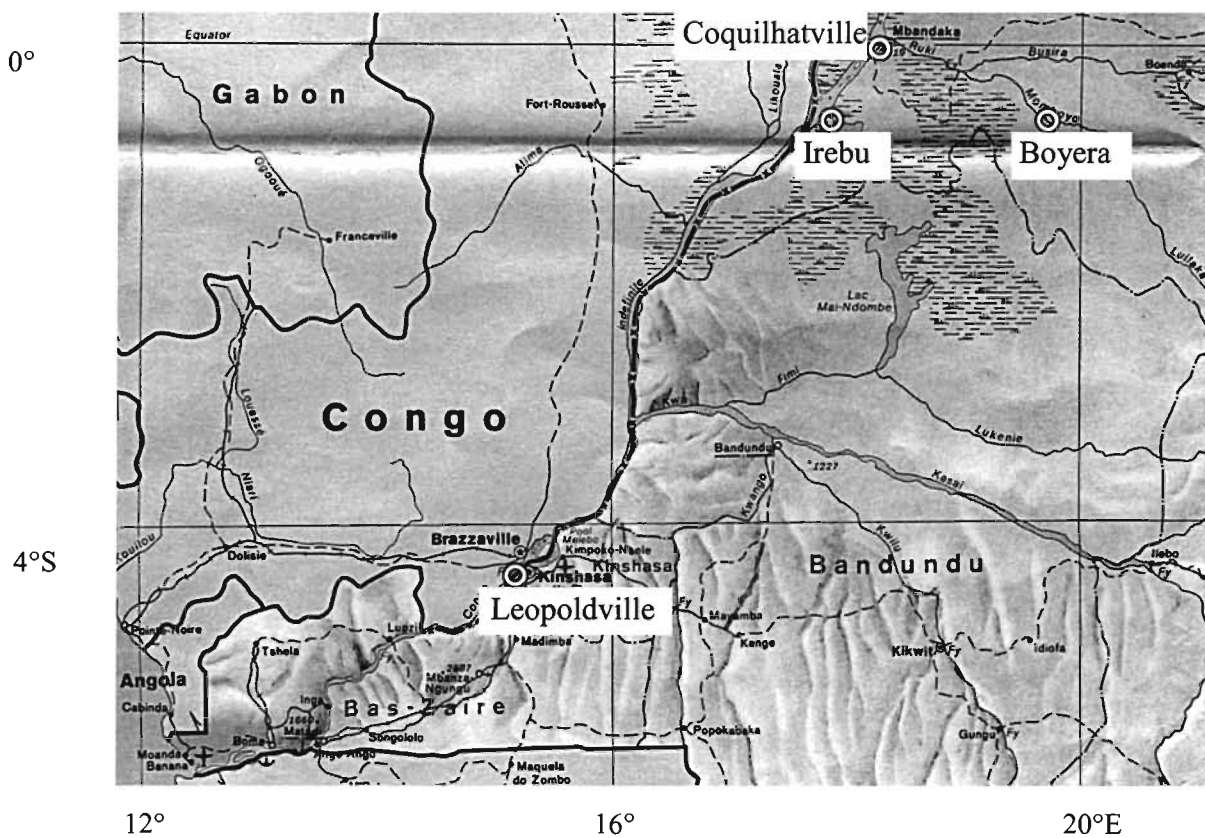


Figure 3: Portion of a map, showing the locations of Leopoldville, Irebu, Coquilhatville and Boyera. From <http://images.nationmaster.com/images/motw/africa/zaire_map.jpg>, accessed 22 May 2011.

Acknowledgment:

I am most grateful to Stuart Smith, General Secretary of the Belgian Congo Study Circle (<http://www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be>), for reading the manuscript, confirming some of my suppositions and adding several important details concerning the cover's journey.

Footnotes and References:

1. Proud, E. B. (1994) *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*, Proud Bailey, Heathfield.

2. <<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/documents/wack/wacktoc.html>> accessed 22 May 2011. Online version of a book by Henry Wellington Wack, "The Story of the Congo Free State", New York & London : Putnam 1905. Distances and details of postal services are given in Chapter XXIII, the Public Force is described in Chapter XIV, and the facilities at Irebu in Chapter XXXV, part 2.

3. Maps showing Boyera can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/jog/central_africa/trmc_mp_congo_SA34_01_1_m.jpg>, accessed 22 May 2011, a 1:250,000 scale, US Joint Operations Group map dating from the mid 1960s.

<<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/drc/general-overview-map>>, accessed 22 May 2011, a pdf image compiled by MONUC GIS Unit-Kinshasa. In this map, the river on which Boyera stands is named as the Lulaka, the name given to an upstream region of the Momboyo in Fig.3, but the position of Boyera is the same on both maps.



Ascension - The Oval 'POST OFFICE' Cachets

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

Sorting through part of a correspondence recently acquired, I noticed that the crowns in the POST OFFICE / (crown) / ASCENSION cachets differed.

The cachets all measure about 39-40 mm long and 25-26 mm high and are all struck in black.

The first (Figure 1) has a crown with a curved base and with large letters. I have noted this between 14 July 1987 and 12 January 199x, the last digit being illegible.

The second cachet (Fig. 2) is the most interesting. The crown is smaller with a flat base; the words are also smaller. However 'OFFICE' has three Fs! My example is dated 10 January 1995.

The third cachet (Fig. 3) also has smaller letters but with 'OFFICE' spelt correctly. The base of the differently shaped crown is slightly curved, but the overall impression indistinct. Dates are from xx xxx 2000 to 19 September 2002.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

I am sure many more examples exist and that dates can be extended.

Bernard Mabbett has listed those for St Helena on pages 68-70 in his book *St Helena - The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815 - 2000*, published by the Circle in 2002.

Nigeria: use of an embossed registration cut-out

Peter Horlyck

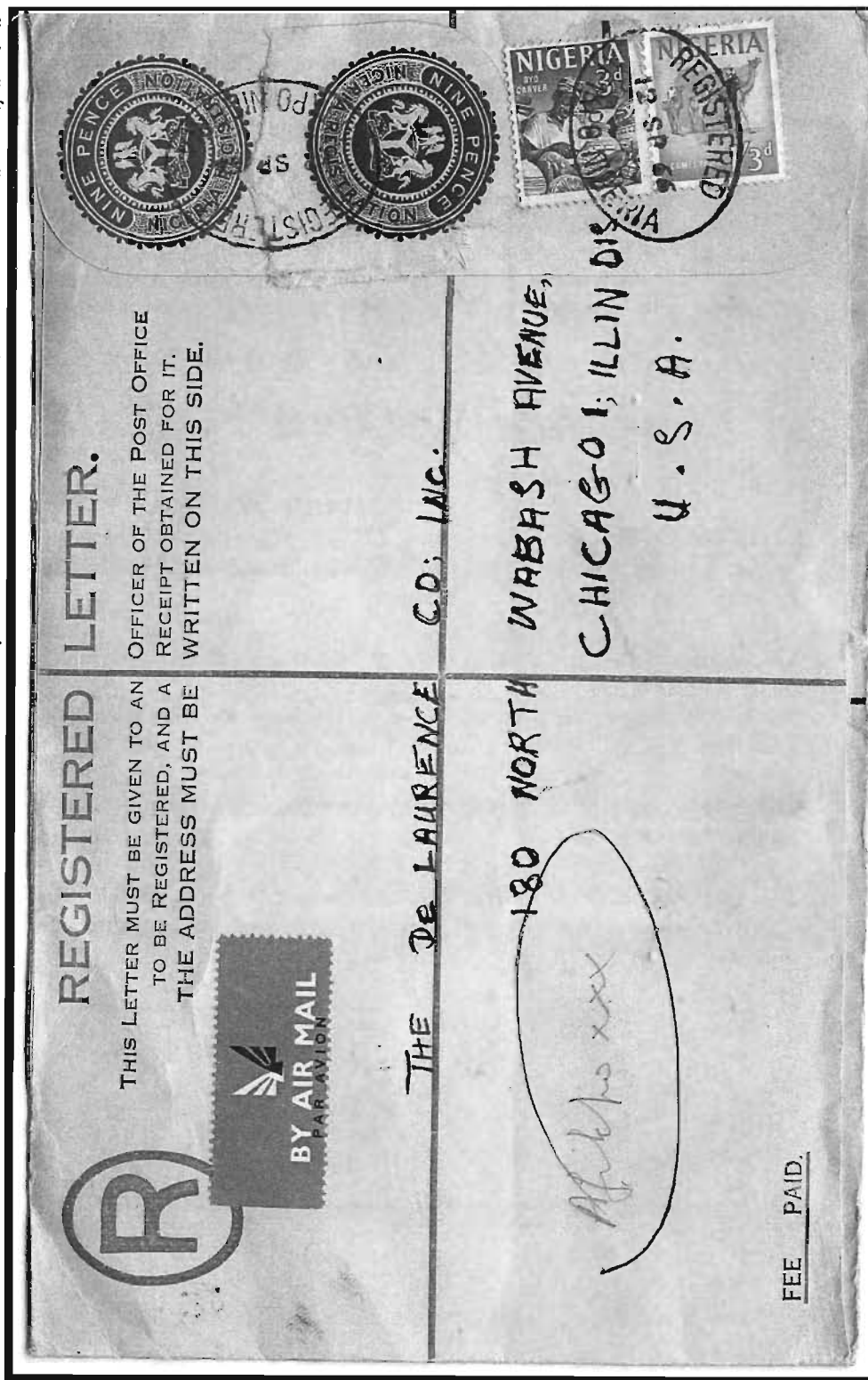
Following the short quotation from the Nigerian Postal Regulations in *Cameo* (Ref 1) I can illustrate a registered envelope sent to the de Lawrence Company, Chicago in September 1966 where an embossed registration cut out has been added. It has been postmarked at the counter at Afikpo post office.

Would the registration fee have needed to be doubled for any reason? If not, it seems the sender intended to pay part of the postage by this means. Another member may be able to tell me if the postage to USA would have been 1/6d or 2/3d at this date.

An accurate reading of the regulations should have caused the clerk to treat the extra embossed registration stamp as invalid for postage.

Reference

1. May, R., "Nigeria: validity of Postal Stationery cut-outs", *Cameo*, Volume 12 p25, WASC, January 2011



Gold Coast WWI Censor Tapes

Robert Nelson

Martin & Walton (Ref. 1) illustrate three types of the label "OPENED BY CENSOR / ACCRA" with square stops. I can now illustrate two other types which I will name Types L3C and L3D to follow Martin & Walton's L3, L3A and L3B.

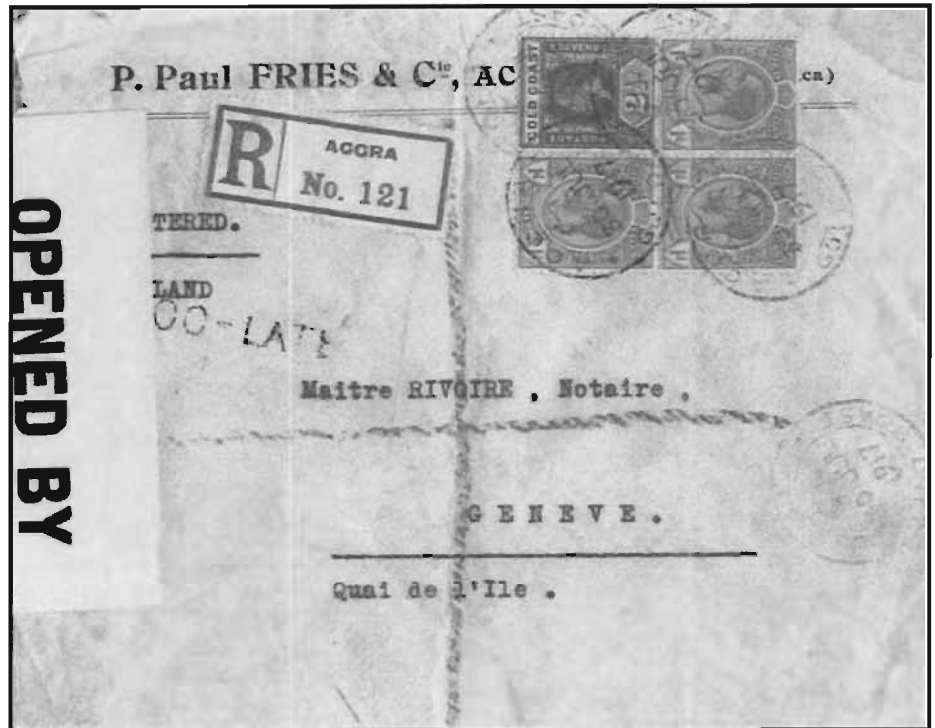


Figure 1 (reduced)



Figure 2 (reduced)

Type L3C label. Cover postmarked on face Accra 30 July 1917, Mackin (Ref 2) type 14. Note the TOO LATE instructional mark. The letter appears to be either over-stamped by 1d or under-stamped by ½d

Type L3C Final letter A in ACCRA unbroken
Measurements

- 5.5mm gap between "OPENED" and "BY"
- 8.5mm gap between "ACCRA" and the line
- 7.5mm gap between the line and "CENSOR"

Type L3D Final letter A in ACCRA broken
Measurements

- 5.5mm gap between "OPENED" and "BY"
- 6.5mm gap between "ACCRA" and the line
- 5.5mm gap between the line and "CENSOR"

Figure 3 (reduced)

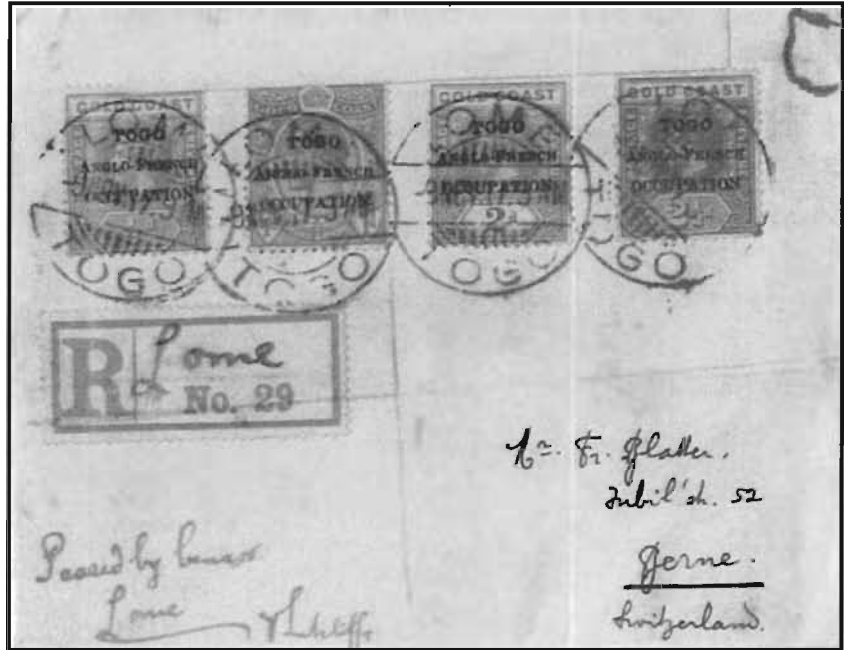


Figure 4 (reduced)



Type L3D label. This is a rare example on a letter from Togo which had already been censored in Togo. The postal rate is for a double-weight registered letter. Postmarked on face LOME 9 Nov 1917; on reverse ACCRA ? Nov 17.

I have two other examples of this label all posted to Switzerland from the Gold Coast and postmarked AKUSE 11 Aug 1918, Mackin type 15A, and NSABA ? ? 17, Mackin type 15.

References

1. Martin J.J. & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, pp38-39, WASC, Dronfield 2nd Edition 1999
2. Mackin M.T., *The Gold Coast ... Cancellations 1875-1957*, WASC, Revised edition 1990

Perforations of the First Sierra Leone 6d: Line or Comb?

Philip Quirk

The following article first appeared in the London Philatelist of July-August 2010 (Vol 119, p213) and appears here, slightly revised, with permission of the editor and of the author.

The first 6d design of Sierra Leone was in use between 1859 and 1896, during which time ten despatches of the postage stamp were made, all printed by De La Rue using typography. The sheet layout was that of the contemporary British 6d stamp: twelve panes of stamps arranged in four rows of three, with each pane containing twenty stamps arranged in five rows of four (Ref.1). Although the various shades and presence or absence of the Crown CC watermark have been well documented (Refs.1,2) and a concordance between Gibbons and Scott catalogue varieties has been presented (Ref.3), the types of perforation have perhaps received less attention. I have somewhat revised the original article (Ref.4) to incorporate additional information which has since become available, but the main conclusions remain unchanged.

Although in recent years Stanley Gibbons catalogues have made more distinctions between line and comb perforation types (e.g. the Gold Coast 1938 issue), the 2009 West Africa catalogue mentions only the perforation gauges (12½, 14) of the Sierra Leone 6d (Ref.5). Robson Lowe (Ref.6) cites the last three despatches as having line perforation, but merely gives the gauges for the earlier sendings. His illustration of the 6d (p.344, *figure 1*) is of a line perforated stamp, but this was probably meant to represent only the printed design, rather than a particular despatch. Support for this assumption is provided by his adjacent photograph of the first keyplate design (p.344, *figure 2*); this shows a comb perf 14 stamp, whereas the initial despatches of that type were line perf 12½ (Refs.6,7).

Identification of line and comb perforation on single stamps is not always straightforward, and I have, where possible, studied pairs or blocks. Unfortunately, very few pairs or blocks have survived from the early despatches of the Sierra Leone 6d. In addition, used stamps were normally cancelled with the undated B31 obliterations, so can only be dated when on cover. On the other hand, the gauge 14 perforators provided very clean perforations (Ref.8, p.219), and the presence or absence of wing margin stamps provides valuable information on the type of perforator employed for a particular despatch (see below).

For the first despatch of the 6d (1859), Philip Beale writes: "The line perforator that was used was the same as for the Great Britain sixpence" (Ref.1, p.122). However, his illustrations of blocks of the 1859 and 1865 stamps both appear to show comb perforations (Ref.1, pp.117 and 123). This agrees with the description in the SG Great Britain Queen Victoria specialised catalogue (Ref.9): "Comb perforation, gauging 14 all round, was the rule throughout these [surface-printed] issues," apart from the 1867-78 high values. Poole (Ref.10, pp.9-10) agrees that the perforation of the first Sierra Leone 6d gauges 14 "and was done at Somerset House by the same machine used for perforating the then current British stamps". This and subsequent gauge 14 comb machines at Somerset House were constructed by Napier and produced wing margins on stamps at the boundaries between panes (Ref.8). Thus, the presence of a wing margin should be diagnostic of comb perforation, even in a single stamp. The 1859 block of six illustrated by Beale was offered as lot 1466 in the 2010 Vestey sale (Ref.11).

"Specimen" overprints were applied by De La Rue to 6d stamps from several despatches. The type D2 overprint is recorded for the first despatch (Refs.12, 13), but since this handstamp saw use into the 1870s (Ref.14), the possibility that it was also applied to later printings cannot be ruled out (Ref.15). A complete pane of twenty bearing the type D2 has survived (Ref.13). It has wing margins on both sides and appears to be comb perforated (Ref.16), consistent with having been perforated on the Napier machine. A single stamp bearing this overprint is illustrated in Beale (Ref.12), one was offered as lot 1463 in the Vestey sale (Ref.11), and images of two further examples have been seen by the author. Whether or not all of these stamps originate from the first despatch, they do all appear to have comb perforation (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Type D2 "SPECIMEN" overprint on 6d stamp (Walton), illustration enlarged.

In addition, the 6d stamps on six covers dated between November 1860 and February 1871 all appear to have comb perforations (one or two may have damaged corners); Figure 2 illustrates a pair of first printing stamps from a cover dated 21 July 1864, while Figure 3 shows two second printing stamps (paler colour) from a cover dated 09 Feb 1871. All illustrations are enlarged. From this study of the available material, I conclude that Sierra Leone SG 1 and 2, from the 1859 and 1865 despatches, were perforated 14 comb, rather than line.

The third and fourth despatches of the stamp, in 1871 and 1873, were perforated by De La Rue with the same line 12½ perforator as used for the 1872 and 1873 Sierra Leone keyplate stamps (Refs.7,10). No blocks of this stamp have been recorded, but examination of single stamps, together with a pair on an April 1872 cover, support the conclusion that SG 3 is perf. 12½ line.

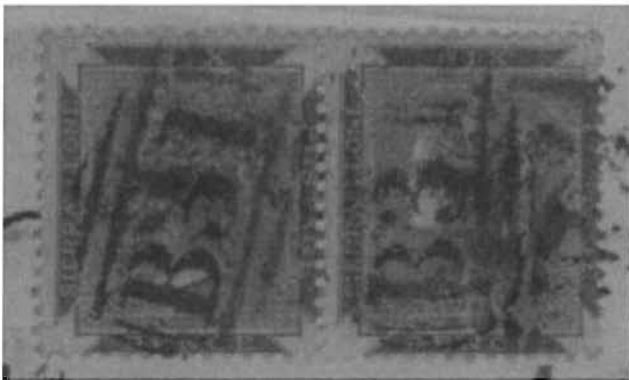


Figure 2: SG1, pair of 6d first printing from cover dated 21 July 1864 (Sacher).

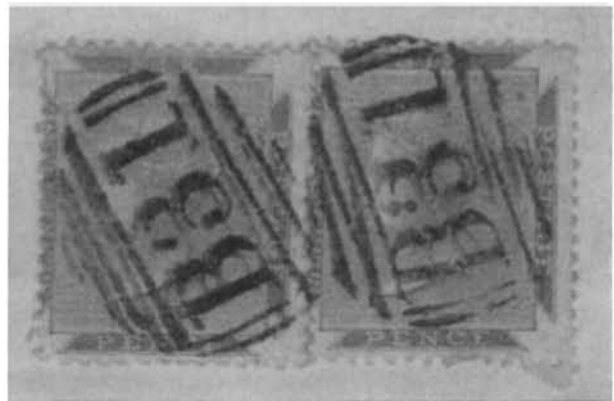


Figure 3: SG2, 6d second printing from cover dated 09 Feb 1871 (Sacher).

For the fifth, sixth and seventh 6d despatches of 1874, 1875 and 1876 (SG 4), the perforations reverted to gauge 14. According to Poole (Ref.10, p.16), De La Rue purchased a new, single-line, perforating machine some time in 1874-5, which was used for the perf. 14 keyplate despatches between December 1875 and November 1878. However, the evidence from single 6d stamps, including a wing margin example on cover dated 05 February 1877 (Ref.17), is that its perforations remained comb. The contemporary British 6d stamps retained the 12 panes of 20 sheet format until the 1881 issue, and also remained comb perforated at Somerset House (Figure 4). Easton (Ref.8, p.225) states that "De La Rue took over some of the Somerset House [perf 14 comb] machines in 1876 and the balance in 1880". Figure 5 shows a Sierra Leone stamp from the 1874 despatch. It is fairly clearly comb perforated.



Figure 4: Great Britain 6d pair, SG 147, plate 16, put to press 1877, comb perf. and wing margin.



Figure 5: Sierra Leone SG 4, from cover dated 06 Mar 1875 (Sacher).

The eighth despatch in 1878 was supplied on Crown CC watermarked paper, although apparently not issued until 1885. Again, the stamps (SG 35) could feasibly have been perforated comb or line, but the illustrated interpane block of four (Figure 6) shows wing margins and comb perforation. Surprisingly, this finding is in disagreement with both Robson Lowe (Ref.6) and Poole (Ref.10). Although the watermark is often difficult to detect, the shade is distinctive and none of several additional single stamps seen by the author has had perforations that could be taken as line.



Figure 6: SG 35, interpane block from the 8th despatch, comb perf. (Walton).



Figure 7: Block from the Revenue printing, comb perf. (Walton).

The ninth and tenth despatches of the regular stamp, in 1889 and 1895, were also on Crown CC watermarked paper. These stamps have distinctive brown-purple (1889) and purple-lake (1895) shades. Lowe (Ref.6) and Poole (Ref.10) agree that the stamps were line perforated, a statement confirmed by the examples shown in Figures 8 and 9. Thus, SG 36 and 37 are perf. 14 line. The change in perforation type might have been a consequence of the by then increasingly anachronistic sheet layout, with the company's comb machines having been modified to deal with more standard pane arrangements.



Figure 8: SG 36, interpane pair from the 9th despatch, no wing margins, line perf. (Walton).



Figure 9: SG 37, interpane pair from the 10th despatch, no wing margins, line perf (Walton).

The "Pattison" collection of Sierra Leone, sold by Robson Lowe on 10 November 1943, contained two mint blocks of the 6d, lots 216 and 260, both in shades of grey and fortuitously both illustrated (albeit in monochrome) in the auction catalogue (Ref.19). Beale (Ref.1, p.124) suggests that both blocks were faded stamps of a late printing, but whereas the stamps of lot 260 had line perfs and lacked wing margins, consistent with this hypothesis, those of lot 216 featured comb perfs and wing margins, suggesting that they originated from an earlier despatch.

The De La Rue Colour Trial

Philip Beale (Ref.1, p.124) mentions the existence of three copies of a 6d brown-purple stamp, the colour of the ninth despatch, but with watermark Crown CA and perforated 12. One of these stamps was offered as Lot 1496 at the Vestey sale. Regrettably, the illustration in the pdf version of the catalogue (Ref.11) is not clear enough to show whether the perforations are line or comb. However, Figures 10 and 11 show two of the extant copies of this stamp more clearly. At least one of the stamps has been cut with scissors, but the perforations appear to be line in each case.



Figure 10: 6d watermark Crown CA, perf 12, ex Hind (Ref.20) (monochrome).



Figure 11: 6d watermark Crown CA, perf 12 (Walton).

An Anomaly Explained

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate a wing margin stamp from a cover postmarked 27 Oct 1877. The upper corners of the perf 14 stamp appear to be comb perforated, while the lower corners appear line. The likely explanation is that two successive strikes of the comb were slightly misaligned; the top and two sides were

perforated by one strike and the bottom by the next. To quote Easton (Ref.8, p.219): "The principle of the [Napier] comb machine is the perforation at one operation of a complete horizontal line of perforation plus the vertical sides of the stamps below that horizontal line... The paper is then pushed further under the machine head ... and the operation is repeated."



Figure 12: SG 4 (Sacher) from cover dated 27 Oct 1877.



Figure 13: The same stamp as Fig. 9 with perforations highlighted (Walton).

The fact that De La Rue used line perforators for four despatches raises the possibility that some portion of one of the other despatches might also have been prepared using these or other line perforators. Similarly, the fact that stamps from a certain despatch exist with one type of perforation does not unequivocally establish that the whole of the despatch utilised that perforator. I would be most interested to learn of any extant material that might support the hypothesis of a mixture of perforation types, particularly with reference to the early despatches and specimen overprints.

Conclusions

The Napier machines used at Somerset House for the Sierra Leone 6d stamps produced comb perforated sheets, gauge 14, including stamps with wing margins. Wing margin copies are known for the 1st, 2nd, 5th-8th and revenue despatches, and these all appear to possess comb perforations. Panes from the line-perforated 9th and 10th despatches do not possess wing margins, while no wing margin copies have been found for the line-perforated 3rd and 4th despatches. Although I have examined many examples of stamps from the 9th and 10th despatches, I have yet to encounter any that might appear to have comb perforations, due to fortuitous alignment of the corner holes. Similar considerations apply to the stamps from the "wing margin" despatches; none of the stamps seen by me have presented with apparent line perforations, with the exception of the type of anomaly discussed above. This gives me some confidence that it is possible successfully to distinguish comb from line perforations for these printings.

Summary of 6d Despatches

Despatch	Year	Description	SG No.	Perforation
1	1859	no wmk, dull purple	1	14, comb
2	1865	no wmk, grey lilac	2	14, comb
3-4	1871-73	no wmk, purple	3	12½, line
5-7	1874-76	no wmk, violet	4	14, comb
8	1878	CC wmk, violet	35	14, comb
Revenue	1884	CC wmk, overprinted REVENUE	---	14, comb
9	1889	CC wmk, brown-purple	36	14, line
10	1895	CC wmk, purple-lake	37	14, line

Acknowledgements

Compilation of the information presented in this article would have been impossible without the generous help of Frank Walton, FRPSL, and John Sacher, FRPSL, which I most gratefully acknowledge. I also thank Philip Beale, FRPSL, for raising several interesting points, a number of which I have attempted to address in this revised manuscript.

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15. Beale, personal communication
16. Walton, personal communication
17. Walton, personal communication
18. Beale, p.147
19. Robson Lowe, *Pattison Sale*, 10 November 1943.
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Gambia T.P.O. postmark 201.10

Oliver Andrew

This postmark (Fig. 1) is recorded by Duncan & Andrew, *The Postal Markings of The Gambia*, WASC 2005 p75, in use between 31 March 1922 and 26 May 1922. It was in use on the “Vampire”, the only T.P.O. vessel in service at that time.

Recently I acquired a copy of this cancellation struck on the Elephant-and-palm ½d green. This stamp was issued on 1 Sept 1922. The date is only partly legible but it seems clear that this canceller was in use probably until the introduction of the second T.P.O. vessel, the “Prince of Wales” in December 1922. Two T.P.O.s meant two cancellers and, from December, circular date-stamps are the only marks known. Presumably 201.01 was withdrawn then. Difficulties may have been caused by its size (46 x 27mm); it would have needed a special ink-pad, and lots of ink, which may be why it is so often faintly struck.

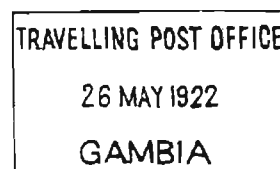
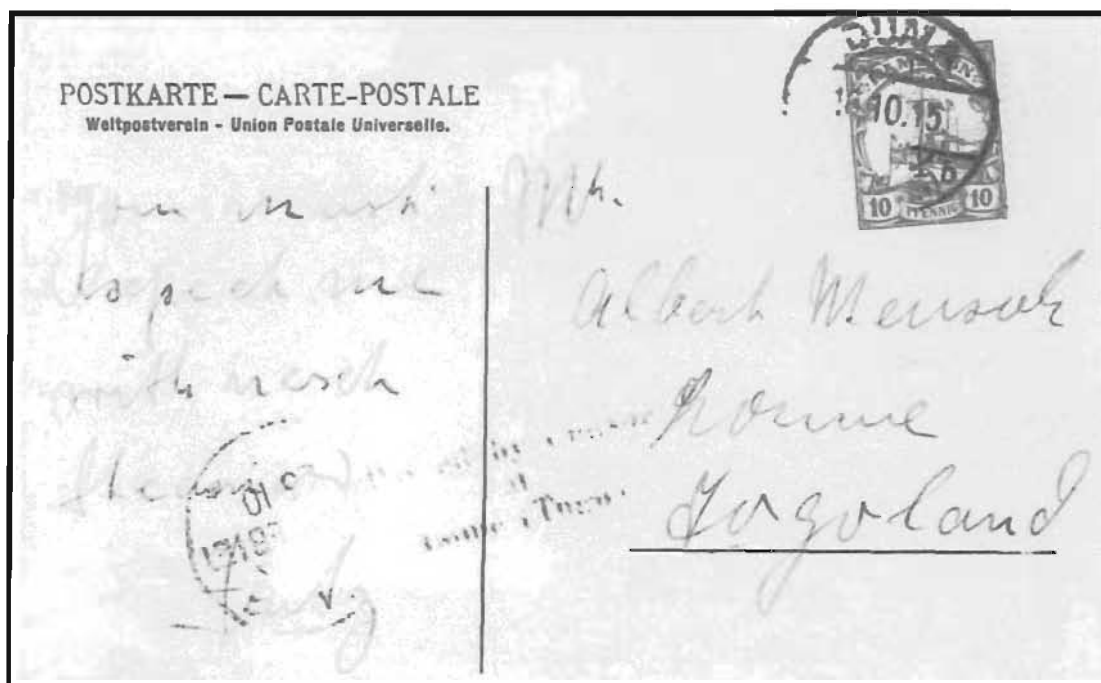


Figure 1; illustration of 201.01 from Duncan & Andrew

Surface mail from Cameroons to Togo, 1915

John Mayne & Rob May



At London 2010 John came across the above item of interest. It is a German postcard printed by the German West Africa Trading Company of Hamburg, which is not an easily-found item. It has been posted at Duala in British-occupied Cameroons on 16 October 1915 at 1d overseas postcard rate using the 1d C.E.F. overprinted 10pf German yacht stamp. It is cancelled with the German design of DUALA / Kamerun (b) postmark.

The full message, written in English, reads "*Dear brother, I hope that you are well with family, you must expect me with next steamer*" The card reached Lome 26 October 1915 where it was censored with the Lome, Togo three line hand-stamp. In October 1915 British mail boats had yet to start calling at Lome, so all inward mail from the UK was routed via the Gold Coast. The French service operated by Chargeurs Réunis continued throughout the war, calling at Lome, but would any of their ships have called at Duala to collect this mail or to provide the means for the sender to travel between these territories? Was he obliged to enter Togoland either by the Gold Coast or Dahomey?

Two alternative answers to these questions may be found in Dudley Cobb's latest book (Ref. 1 and page xx of this issue of *Cameo*). The Chargeurs Réunis vessel *Asie* left Libreville Gabon on 10 October northbound but stopped at Suellaba Point, Cameroun to offload 500 porters from Gabon for the Campo column of the French contingent of the Expeditionary Force, anchoring at 7.20 am on 16 October.

Cobb writes "*The Chargeurs Réunis steamer left the same day. Salles reports it at Dakar on the 25th, and at Bordeaux on 3 November.*" He lists five items of French Contingent mail carried to France on this sailing, three with the *Asie's* Matadi-Bordeaux postmark and comments that "*These are the earliest Matadi-Bordeaux postmarks, to my present knowledge, on wartime mail from Cameroun that was carried by Asie. But mail may come to light from the mailboat's homeward voyage in July.*"

The postmark date on this card and its Lome arrival postmark on 26th do fit the dates of this sailing, but the two national contingents of the C.E.F. ran completely separate post offices. A British ship *Elmina* also left Duala on 17th carrying homeward British Contingent mail, which the Duala postmark confirms this card to be, so it may be more likely that this card was delivered to Togo via that vessel's call at Accra, Gold Coast.

Reference

1. Cobb D, "*Cameroun in the Great War, Vol 3 - The Homeward Mail*", p38-39, Author, France, 2010

Nigeria Advice of Receipt Card

Rob May

P. & T. Pm's 23A.

Administration des Postes de Nigeria
Postal Administration of Nigeria

A remplir par le bureau d'origine.
To be filled in by the office of origin.

Envoi recommandé
Registered article

Lettre-Parcelle - Cella
Letter-Parcel

avec valeur déclarée de
with declared value of

Mandat de poste de
Money Order for

enregistré au bureau de poste de
registered at the Post Office of

le 22/9/37 sous le No.
on the 22/9/37 under No.

expédié par M. The Lagos Timber Coy.
sent by M.

et adressé à M. Robert V. de Souza
and addressed to M.

Police Training Depot
Kaduna

Nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé, etc.)
Nature of the article (letter, printed paper, etc.)

Cette part est à remplir
This side to be entirely completed

G. P. D. Lagos 1876/31

Acte de Réception.
Advice of Delivery.

Avec le Paiement
With the Payment

A remplir par l'expéditeur.
To be filled in by the sender.

The Lagos Timber
Coy. Ltd. E.B.

Lieu de destination.
Place of destination.

208 Clifford St Eb.

Service des Postes.
D. P. Tenella

par l'office d'origine.
by the office of origin.

Following Philip Quirk's fine article In *Cameo* (Ref 1) and earlier speculation about the AR service in *Cameo* (Ref. 2) members might be interested to see a later example of a Nigerian pro-forma AR return form used in 1937 to acknowledge receipt of an "ordinary letter" sent by the Lagos Timber Company, Ebute Metta ("E.B.") to an addressee at the Police Training Depot, Kaduna. The 3d AR fee has been prepaid by the sender by way of the 3d KGV Coronation stamp affixed to the stationery card, type "P&T Pm's 23A", which is printed in red on pink card.

I do not have access to a copy of the pre-war Nigerian Postal Regulations to confirm that this has been handled in accordance with the postal regulations of that time, and my copy extracts from the 1973 regulations by then no longer refer to such a service at all. It is my understanding that the stamp was correctly to be postmarked only when the outbound letter had been delivered. The pre-paid return form was then to be posted back to the sender; in this case first cancelled by the post office at Kaduna North on 7 October 1937 then by an Ebute Metta registered oval of (I think) 10 October. When these forms were used internationally they became an example of the stamps of one territory being valid for postage in another, like the reply paid postcards of the late Victorian era.

Frank Walton tells me he has never seen one of these AR forms for Sierra Leone of any period. Their survival rate must be poor in any territory, as their purpose is ephemeral.

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Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 5/- on 100 Franc and the 10/- on 200 Franc type 2 Stamps

Marty Bratzel

Introduction

On October 1, 1961, Cameroun introduced 12 then-current postage stamps revalued with sterling currency, for use in West Cameroun. These overprinted stamps remained in use until May 1962, when the currency conversion was completed and stamps in CFA francs were introduced. In addition, a second printing was prepared for six of the stamps and a third for two, resulting in 19 face-different stamps. Their dates of preparation and availability have been explored (Ref. 1). The 5/- and the 10/- stamps were the subject of three printings:

- Type 1: Small numeral of value.
- Type 2: Large numeral of value, with the “-” of the denomination aligned with the two bars obliterating the old value.
- Type 3: Large numeral of value, with the “-” offset to the left from the bars.

Six previous articles (Ref. 2-7) have discussed the plating of nine of the stamps and described the distinctive characteristics of overprints from specific positions in a sheet. This article, the seventh in the series, discusses the overprint plate used to prepare the 5/- on 100-franc and the 10/- on 200-franc Type 2 stamps (Figures 1 and 2). Both stamps were probably prepared in late September or early October 1961. There is no evidence to support their availability and sale at postal counters in West Cameroun. Rather, the entire print run was probably shipped to the philatelic bureau in Paris. The only postally used Type 2 stamps are loose copies and on philatelic covers, the stamps having been obtained from Paris. The earliest recorded date of use for both is November 9, 1961.

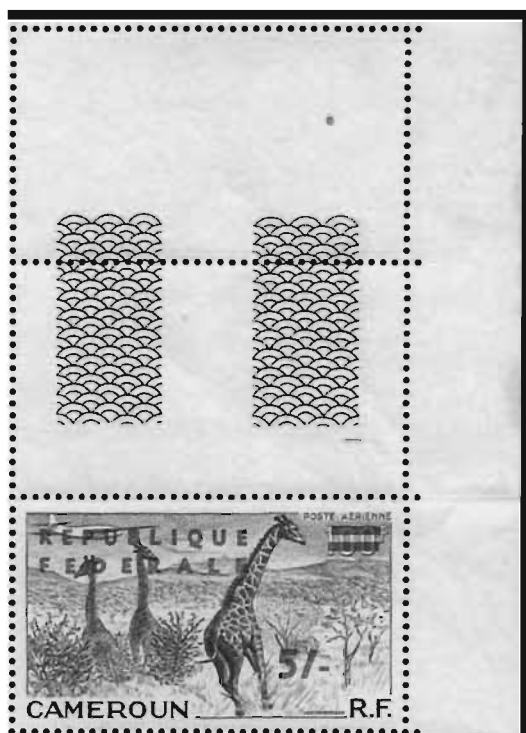


Figure 1



Figure 2

The information presented below demonstrates that both denominations were overprinted with the same plate – suitably adjusted – and that the 5/- on 100-franc overprint was probably prepared first. Proofs are unlikely.

The Stamps

The un-overprinted 100-franc and 200-franc definitive air mail stamps were issued January 24, 1955. Both are engraved, identical in size, and perf. $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13$. The 100-franc stamp, depicting giraffes, is printed in dark green, blue, and brown. The 200-franc stamp, depicting the port of Douala, is printed in dark green, grey blue, and brown. Full sheets consist of 25 stamps, arranged in 5 rows of 5.

Both sheets have a double row of selvedge, perforated the same size as the stamps themselves, at both the top and the bottom. The selvedge contains machine filigree. Printed on a rotary press, the paper was guillotined just beyond the double rows of selvedge, leaving an additional, narrow row of selvedge at both the top and bottom (see Figures 1 and 2).

Below stamp position 23, the bottom selvedge row contains a colour dot. The row also contains in black the sheet count number (below Position 21), the press number (below Position 23), and the printing date (below Position 25). A colour dot is also present in the top row of selvedge above stamp position 3.

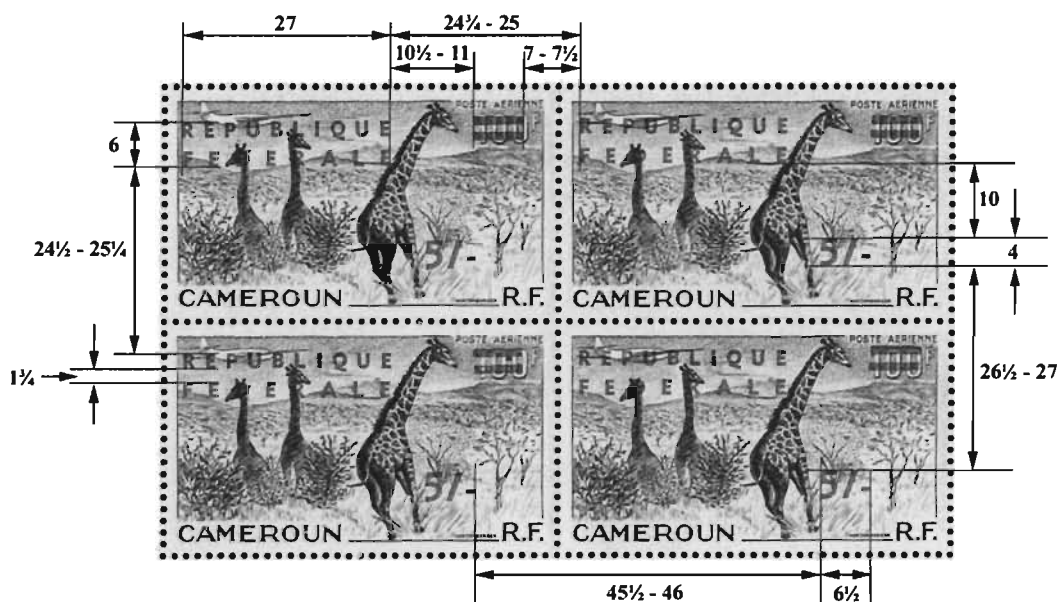


Figure 3. Characteristics of the 5/- on 100-Franc Type 2 Overprint.

Examination of the Overprint on the 5/- on 100-Franc type 2 Stamp

The overprint is well positioned on all stamps seen. The orange red / vermillion ink adhered reasonably well to the engraved stamp.

The overprint plate is well composed (see Figure 3). For each of the 25 positions, both REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE measure 27 mm and, for most positions, the F and the last E of FEDERALE are respectively directly under the R and the last E of REPUBLIQUE, or almost so. There are minor variations at some positions, where the F is very slightly to the right or the left of the R, or the bottom E is slightly to the left of the top E. The spacing between REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE is consistently $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE are slightly misaligned or angled across each row; see, for example, Positions 6 - 10 in Figure 4. The text is well aligned down each column, with no significant variations.

The distance between REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE on adjacent stamps in a row is consistently $24\frac{1}{4} - 25$ mm. The distance from the bottom of FEDERALE on one stamp and the top of REPUBLIQUE on the

adjacent stamp in a column shows a bit more variation, is $24\frac{1}{2}$ - $25\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Differences reflect, in part, the slight misalignment across a row.



Figure 4 (reduced). 5/- on 100-Franc Stamps

On a given stamp, the distance between the end of REPUBLIQUE to the left end of the bars obliterating the old value is $10\frac{1}{2}$ - 11 mm. On adjacent stamps, the distance between the right end of the bars to the R of REPUBLIQUE on the stamp to the right is 7 - $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Slight differences reflect, in part, the fact that the pairs of bars are not necessarily aligned relative to one another, that is, one bar may be positioned slightly to the right or left of the other.

The 5/-'s are well aligned across each row and down each column. The dimensions $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 mm, with no notable variations in the type at any of the 25 positions. The horizontal distance between 5/- on adjacent stamps in a row is $45\frac{1}{2}$ - 46 mm. The vertical distance on adjacent stamps in a column is $26\frac{1}{2}$ - 27 mm. The distance from the bottom of FEDERALE to the top of the 5 is consistently 10 mm at each position.



Figure 5: Positions 2-4. 10/- on 200-Franc Stamps.

Examination of the Overprint on the 10/- on 200-Franc Type 2 Stamp

The overprint is well positioned on all stamps seen. The orange red / vermilion ink adhered quite well to the engraved stamp.

The overprint plate is less well composed than for the 5/- overprint. For each of the 25 positions, both REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE measure 27 mm. The spacing between the two rows of text is consistently $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Compared to the 5/- overprint, the position of FEDERALE relative to REPUBLIQUE exhibits considerably more variability. The F ranges from slightly left to slightly right of the R, most notably at Positions 3 and 4 (Figure 5). The last E of FEDERALE shows even more variability, being directly under the final E of REPUBLIQUE at only Positions 16 and 25. At all other positions, the E of FEDERALE is shifted to the left, ranging from very slight to significant, most notably at Positions 2, 3 and 4 (Figure 5).

REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE are slightly misaligned or angled across each row, but less so that for the 5/- overprint. Taking into consideration the misalignment of REPUBLIQUE relative to FEDERALE, the text is reasonably well aligned down each column.

The distance between REPUBLIQUE on adjacent stamps in a row is 24 - 25 mm and for FEDERALE 24¾ - 25 mm. The distance from the bottom of FEDERALE on one stamp and the top of REPUBLIQUE on the adjacent stamp in a column is 24½ - 25 mm. Differences reflect, in part, the slight misalignment across a row.

The 10/-'s are reasonably well aligned across each row and down each column. The dimensions are 8¾ x 3½ mm, with no notable variations in the type at any of the 25 positions. The horizontal distance between 10/- on adjacent stamps in a row is consistently 43¾ mm. The vertical distance on adjacent stamps in a column is 26¾ - 27¼ mm. The distance from the bottom of FEDERALE to the top of the 10 is consistently 10 mm at each position.

Comparison of the 5/- and 10/- Overprints

The generally minor discrepancies and variations noted above can help provide secondary confirmation of positions of multiples in a sheet. For the 10/- overprint, the position of FEDERALE relative to REPUBLIQUE can be used to help plate some individual stamps, notably Positions 2, 3 and 4. Marginal selvedge can be used to establish positions within a sheet for both denominations. Several major characteristics reasonably easily seen with a magnifying glass to establish a position within a sheet and to demonstrate that the same overprint plate – suitably adjusted – was used for both denominations are presented below and illustrated in Figures 6-13.

- Position 12. The top bar of the first E in REPUBLIQUE is broken (Figure 6).
- Position 6. Indentation on upper edge of upper bar and on lower edge of lower bar (Figure 7).
- Position 10. One indentation on upper edge of upper bar and two indentations on lower edge of lower bar (Figure 9).
- Position 14. Indentation on upper edge of lower bar (Figure 10).
- Position 21. Bulge on lower edge of upper bar and indentation at left end of lower bar (Figure 12).
- Position 25. Indentation at upper edge of lower bar (Figure 13).

The relative alignment of each pair of bars was compared at corresponding positions for both denominations. The alignment is the same or only slightly different at 23 positions. The only significant differences between the two denominations occur at Positions 7 and 8, not unexpected considering the partial disassembly of the plate, repositioning the bars and spacers, and replacing the numeral in the denomination. Overall, the obliterating bars themselves show the same characteristics on both the 5/- and the 10/- stamps at 23 of the 25 positions. The only differences occur at:

- Position 8. The lower bar on the 5/- is the upper bar on the 10/-. The upper bar on the 5/- is the lower bar on the 10/-; in addition, the bar has been flipped end to end (Figure 8).
- Position 18. Both bars are different. On the 5/- neither bar has indentations whereas on the 10/- each bar shows a significant indentation (Figure 11). The differences do not appear to be artefacts due to poor ink adherence.

Under 30X magnification and with appropriate reference material, the micro-characteristics of the obliterating bars and of the numerals, the /'s, and the -'s of the denomination allow plating of individual stamps for all other positions in a sheet. These characteristics do not lend themselves to reproduction here.

Comparison with other Stamps in the Series

Bar characteristics and sequences observed for the 5/- and 10/- Type 2 overprints do not correlate with characteristics and sequences observed for other stamps plated to date (Ref. 2-7). Comparison was also made with other stamps in the series for which plating has not yet been completed, with particular attention to the two plates for the 4d on 15-franc overprint. Again, there is no correlation.

Conclusions

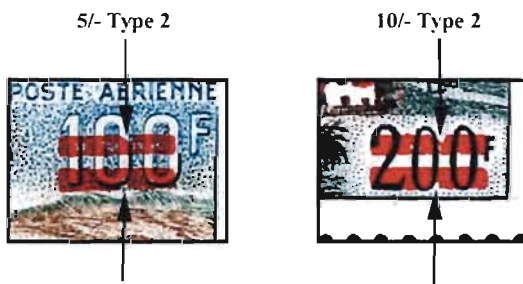
The Type 2 overprints on the 5/- and 10/- stamps were prepared with the same plate. The differences



Position 12

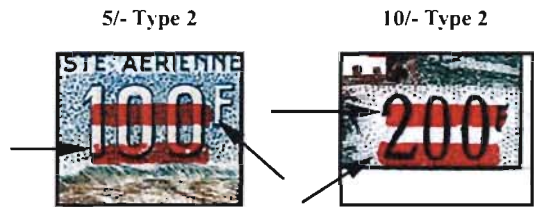
Figure 6

observed between the two denominations – for example, the misalignment of FEDERALE relative to REPUBLIQUE and other differences noted above – likely arose when the plate was partially disassembled, a new denomination inserted, the obliterating bars repositioned from the top to the bottom, and spacers removed and inserted. Since the 5/- overprint plate is better composed than the 10/- plate, the author infers that the 5/- was prepared first. Since all 5/- and 10/- Type 2 stamps examined can be plated, the author concludes that only one overprint plate was prepared.



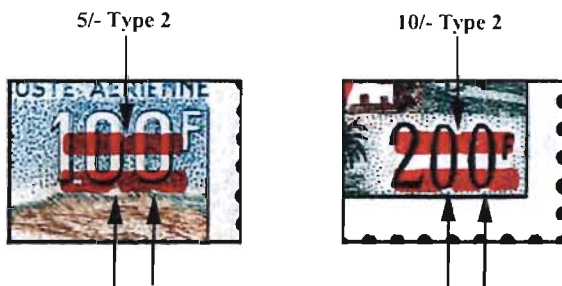
Position 6

Figure 7



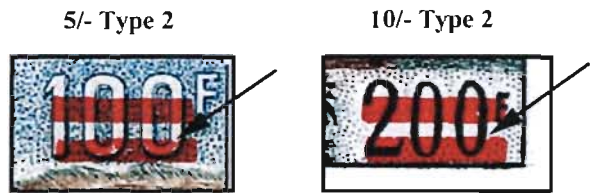
Position 8

Figure 8: the indentation is obscured by the 2 but is clearly visible with a magnifying glass.



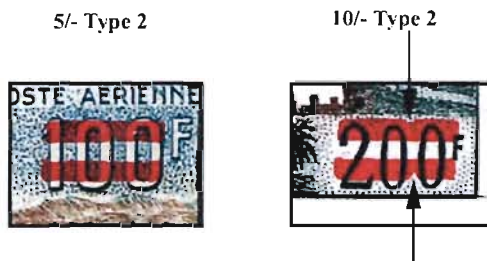
Position 10

Figure 9



Position 14

Figure 10



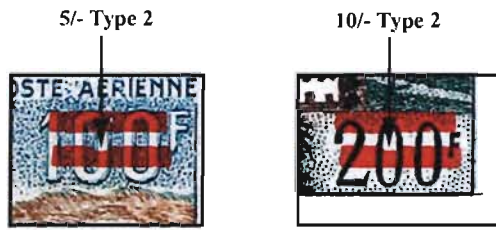
Position 18

Figure 11



Position 21

Figure 12



Position 25

Figure 13



Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: The £1 ON 500 Franc type 1 Stamp

Marty Bratzel

On October 1, 1961, Cameroun introduced 12 then-current postage stamps revalued with sterling currency, for use in West Cameroun. These overprinted stamps remained in use until May 1962, when the currency conversion was completed and stamps in CFA francs were introduced. In addition, a second printing was prepared for six of the stamps and a third for two, resulting in 19 face-different stamps. Their dates of preparation and availability have been explored (Ref. 1). The £1 stamp was the subject of two different printings:

- Type 1: REPUBLIQUE 17½ x 2 mm and FEDERALE 17¼ x 2 mm.
- Type 2: REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE each 22½ x 2 mm.

Seven previous articles (Ref. 2-8) have discussed the plating of eleven of the stamps and described the distinctive characteristics of overprints from specific positions in a sheet. This article, the eighth in the series, discusses the overprint plate used to prepare the £1 on 500-franc Type 1 stamp (Figure 1). The stamp was prepared in September 1961 and was available for sale at post office counters on October 1, 1961.



Figure 1. £1 Type 1 Overprint.



Figure 2. £1 Type 1 Overprint shifted to left.

The plating of other stamps in the series will be reported in due course.

Thanks are extended to Michael Wright for the provision of material for first-hand study.

For references, see the end of the following article by the same author.

The Stamp

The un-overprinted 500-franc definitive air mail stamp was issued February 16, 1953. The stamp is engraved and perf. 13 x 13¼. Printed in dark purple, greenish black, and dark blue, the stamp depicts Humsiki Peak. A full sheet consists of 25 stamps, arranged in 5 rows of 5.

As for other large-format stamps of the period, the sheet has a double row of selvedge, perforated the same size as the stamps themselves, at both the left and the right (Figure 1). The selvedge contains machine filigree. Printed on a rotary press, the paper was guillotined just beyond the double rows of selvedge, leaving an additional, narrow row of selvedge at both the left and the right.

To the left of stamp position 11, the far left full-sized row of selvedge contains a colour dot, as does the second row of selvedge to the right of stamp position 15. The sheet count number is printed in black at the top, in the margin above the far left row of selvedge (Figure 1); the printing date, also in black, is printed at the bottom, in the margin below the same row. The press number, again in black, is also in the same row of selvedge, to the left of stamp position 11.

Examination of the Overprint on the £1 on 500-Franc Type 1 Stamp

No proofs of the overprint are known. The overprint is well positioned on most stamps seen. Figure 2 depicts a stamp with the overprint shifted to the left. The orange red / vermillion ink adhered reasonably well to the engraved stamp, except for text directly over heavily engraved portions of the design, specifically natives and the huts. This leads to some artefacts but, fortunately, none that significantly interfere with characterizing and plating the stamps.

The overprint plate is well composed (see Figure 3). For each of the 25 positions, REPUBLIQUE measures 17½ mm and FEDERALE 17¼ mm. The position of the final E of FEDERALE ranges from slightly left to directly under the final E of REPUBLIQUE. The F of FEDERALE ranges from slightly left to slightly right of the R in REPUBLIQUE. As measured at the final E's, the spacing between the two rows of text is 2 mm at all positions except at Position 10 (2¼ mm) and Position 4 (2½ mm) (Figure 4).

REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE are well aligned across each row, with very slight aberrations at only a few positions. As measured at the left edge of the R and the F, the text is well aligned down each column.

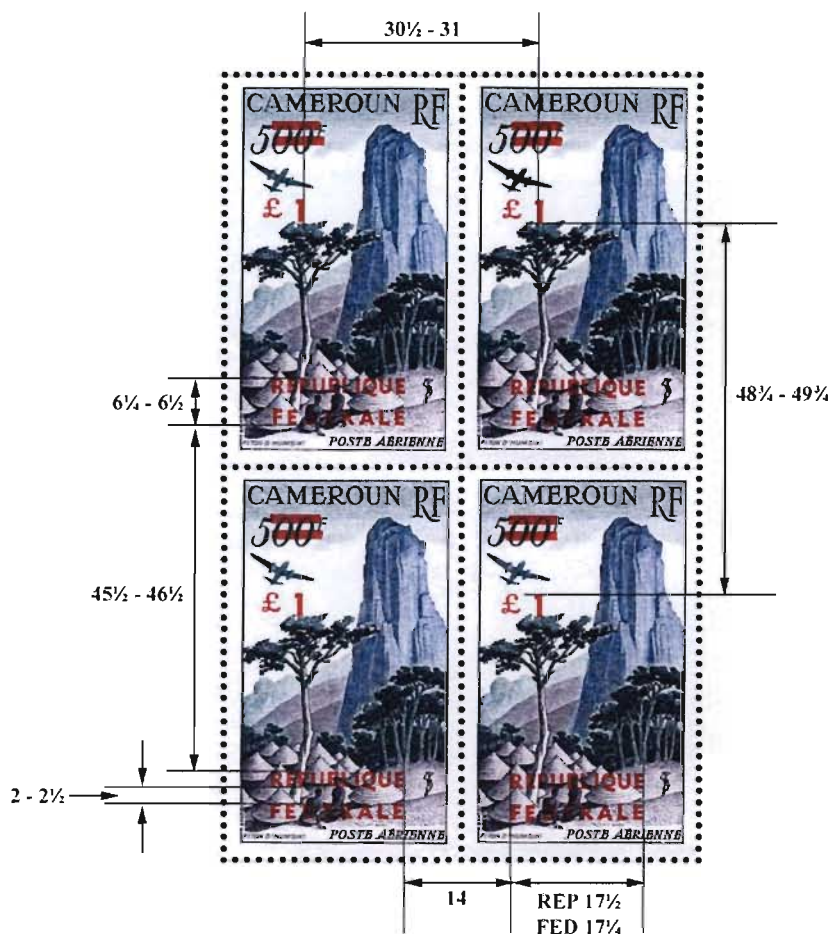


Figure 3: Characteristics of the £1 on 500-Franc Type 1 Overprint.

The distance between REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE on adjacent stamps in a row is consistently 14 mm. The distance between the bottom of FEDERALE and the top of REPUBLIQUE on adjacent stamps in a column varies between 45½ and 46½ mm.

The £1's are well aligned across each row, except at Position 9, where the £1 is shifted down a bit, relative to other stamps in the row. The distance between the 1's on adjacent stamps in a row is 30½ - 31 mm. The £1's are well aligned down each column with respect to each other and also with respect to REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE. The distance between the bottom of the 1 on one stamp and the top of the 1 on the adjacent stamp in a column is 48¾ - 49¾ mm.

The bars on stamps in a row, as measured along the bottom edge of the lower bar, are misaligned at a number of positions. Considering the misalignment of pairs of bars at most positions, the bars on stamps in a column, as measured at the left edge, are reasonably well aligned, but with some relative misalignment observed for some positions.



Figure 4: Spacing between rows of text.



Position 3

Figure 5



Position 4

Figure 6



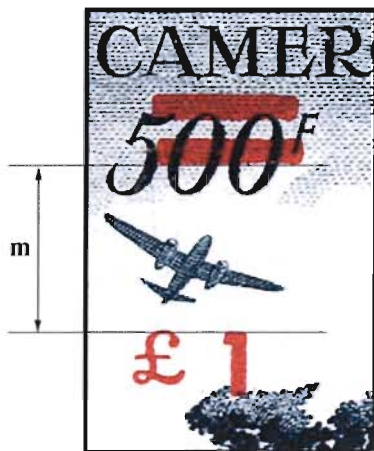
Position 9

Figure 7



Position 10

Figure 8



Position 11

Figure 9: position 11 – Spacing between bars and numeral.



Position 20

Figure 10

SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTICS FOR PLATING THE STAMPS

Except for the difference in spacing between the two rows of text at Positions 4 and 10, the above-noted characteristics are of limited use for plating purposes. Indeed, the observations and measurements require reference material, either larger multiples or a full sheet. More useful for plating individual stamps and multiples are marginal selvedge and the relative alignment of the pair of bars obliterating the old value on each stamp although, for the bars, reference material is required. However, many positions can be plated with only a magnifying glass and a measurement scale. Significant characteristics for selected positions are presented below and illustrated in Figures 5 - 11.



Position 22

Figure 11

- Position 3. Indentation on lower edge of the upper bar (Figure 5).
- Position 4. Two indentations on the upper edge of the upper bar (Figure 6).
- Position 9. The leg of the F of FEDERALE is damaged (Figure 7).
- Position 10. Indentation on the lower edge of the lower bar (Figure 8).
- Position 11. The distance between the bottom of the lower bar and the top of the 1 is 8 mm (Figure 9), rather than the 7 mm observed at the other 24 positions.
- Position 20. Indentation on upper edge of lower bar (Figure 10).
- Position 22. Concave right end of the lower bar (Figure 11).

Under 30X magnification, micro-characteristics of the bars, the £, and the 1 allow plating of individual stamps for all other positions in a sheet. These characteristics do not lend themselves to reproduction here.

Comparison with Other Stamps in the Series

There is no correlation of the overprint characteristics with other overprinted stamps plated to date, in particular, other denominations comprising the initial October 1 release. However, the 5/- and 10/- Type 1 stamps had not yet been plated at the time of writing.

Conclusions

The orange red / vermilion overprint ink for the £1 Type 1 adhered reasonably well to the 500-franc stamp. In addition to marginal selvedge, specific characteristics noted above allow relatively easy plating of 9 of the 25 positions in a sheet. With suitable reference materials, the micro-characteristics observable under 30X magnification allow plating of individual stamps for all other positions.

Thanks are extended to Michael Wright for provision of material for first-hand examination.

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3. Bratzel, Marty, Brian Lythgoe, Nick Carter, and Bob Maddocks. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 1/- on 25 Franc Stamp. *Cameo*, Vol. 9, No. 3, January 2006, pages 129-133.
4. Bratzel, Marty, Brian Lythgoe, Nick Carter, Michael Wright, Rob May, Peter Hørlyck, and Claude Chassagne. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: The ½d on 1 Franc, 1d on 2 Franc, and 2d on 10 Franc Stamps. *Cameo*, Vol. 11, No. 1, January 2009, pages 24-30.
5. Bratzel, Marty, Brian Lythgoe, Nick Carter, Michael Wright, Rob May, and Peter Hørlyck. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 2/6 on 30-Franc Type 1 and the 6d on 20-Franc Stamps. *Cameo*, Vol. 11, No. 2, June 2009, pages 113-119.

6. Bratzel, Marty. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 2/6 on 30-Franc Type 2 Stamp. *Cameo*, Vol. 11, No. 79, January 2010, p265.
7. Bratzel, Marty. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the Printing Plate for the 1½d, 3d, and 2/6 Type 2 Overprints and for the 6d and 2/6 Type 1 Overprints. *Cameo*, Vol. 11, No. 79, January 2010, p268.
8. Bratzel, Marty. Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: the 5/- on 100 Franc and the 10/- on 200 Franc Type 2 Stamps. *Cameo*, this issue.



The Gambia: a strange Registration Cachet

Jeremy Martin FRPSL



Figure 1

Recently I purchased this philatelic cover (Figure 1) because of the “Boxed R” cachet which I had not seen before and which is not recorded in *The Postal Markings of the Gambia* (Ref. 1). The stamps have been cancelled with a type 210.01 date-stamp (Ref. 2) of 21 OC 50. There are no back-stamps.

I referred the cover to Oliver Andrew. He has commented

“...the cover is not marked for registration—this seems to rule out it being applied in Bathurst (how would the P.O. know it was registered?). The straightforward journey from the T.P.O. vessel to the Bathurst address can hardly have passed through anywhere else with the authority to add it. So, it was either applied on board or it is a fake.

I suppose it is possible that it was used on the *Vic 20* or *Fullada* and remained there, or was lost when the *Lady Wright* took over. But the T.P.O. No. 2 survived happily enough.”

Thoughts from other members would be welcome.

References

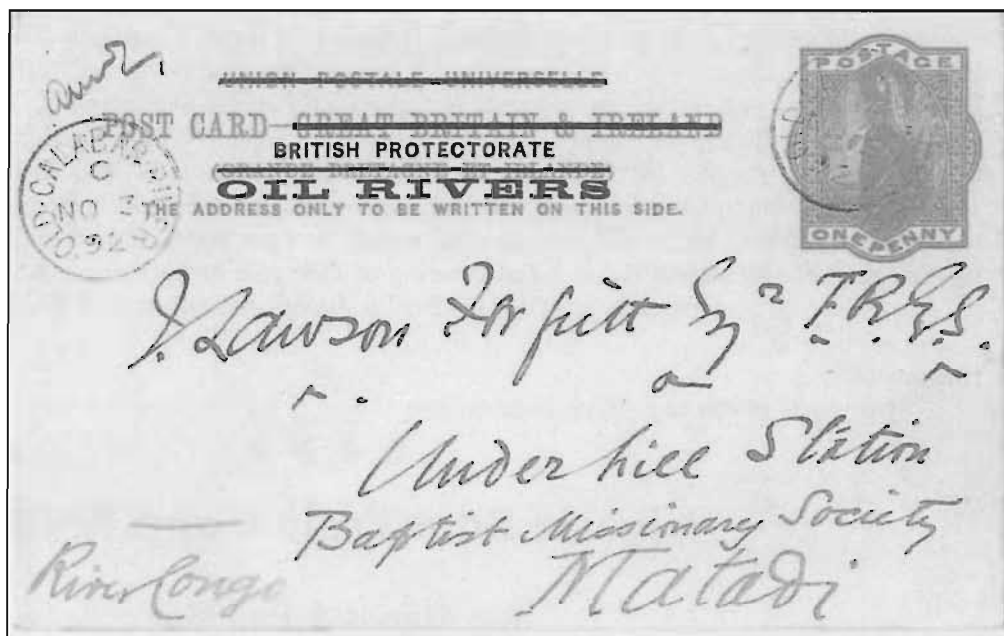
1. Duncan S.P. & Andrew O., *The Postal markings of the Gambia 1858-2000*, pp80-81, WASC, Dronfield, 2006
2. Duncan S.P. & Andrew O., *The Postal markings of the Gambia 1858-2000*, p80, WASC, Dronfield, 2006

Oil Rivers card from Roger Casement in the Congo

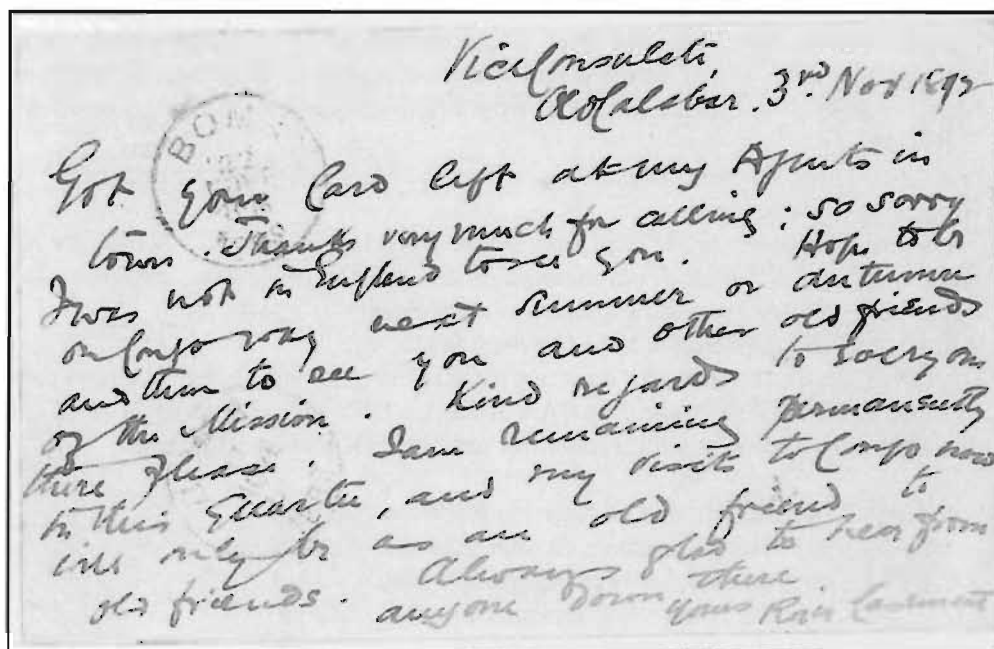
Jeremy Burford

This article first appeared in the Overprinter (the Journal of the GB Overprints Society) in January 2011 and is reproduced here with permission of the editor and the author

Front of card



Message side of the same card



I show here an interesting item of commercially used postal stationery. It is addressed to J Lawson Forfeitt Esq., FRGS, Underhill Station, Baptist Missionary Society, Matadi, River Congo, and postmarked Old Calabar River, NO 3 92. Matadi is now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, being one of the few towns near the coast where the River Congo enters the Gulf of Guinea. The Rev J Lawson Forfeitt, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, was also the co-author of a treatise entitled "George Grenfell and the Congo. A history and description of the Congo independent state and adjoining districts of Congoland together with some account of the native peoples and their languages, the fauna and flora; and similar notes on the Cameroons and the island of Fernando Po. The whole founded on the diaries and researches of the late Rev.

George Grenfell, BMS FRGS; on the records of the British Baptist Missionary Society and on additional information contributed by the author. By the Rev Lawson Forfeitt, Mr Emil Torday, and others”.

The reverse of the card, sent from the Vice-Consulate at Old Calabar, 3 November 1892 reads as follows:
“Got your card left at my Apmts in town. Thanks very much for calling: so sorry I was not in England to see you. Hope to be on Congo-way next summer or autumn and then to see you and other old friends of this Mission. Kind regards to everyone there please. I am remaining permanently in this quarter, and my visits to Congo now will only be as an old friend to old friends. Always glad to hear from anyone down there. Yours.”

However, the most significant aspect is that it is signed by Roger Casement, the Irish politician. Before the first World War (during which he found that his views did not go down well with the British authorities) he had served a long and distinguished career in the British Foreign Service which he joined in 1882 and from which he retired due to ill health in 1912. During his career with the Foreign Office he became British Consul for Mozambique (1895-98), Angola (1898-1900), Congo (1901-04) and Brazil (1906-11) (Ref. 1). He also gained international recognition with his work for the British Foreign Office by highlighting exploitation of labour by the Belgians in what was at the time the “Congo Free State”; the subsequent paper he published on the subject led to a restructuring of their rule in the Congo. An important historical figure indeed, and a nice contemporary postcard linking his diplomatic duties to the Congo missionaries.

Reference:

1. www.northantrim.com/rogercasement.htm



Nigeria Boat Train Cancellation

Ray Harris & Rob May

Figure 1 shows Proud type D1 (Ref 1) cancellation of 1915 which simply reads “BOAT TRAIN” with no specific indication of a Nigerian origin. Ray Harris showed Rob a partial strike of this, dated ?? DE 15, on a Nigeria ½d KGV definitive and asked what is known about the service. The answer seems to be “not much”.

Ince (Ref. 1) has a short reference taken from the Nigeria Official Gazette of 27 December 1928:

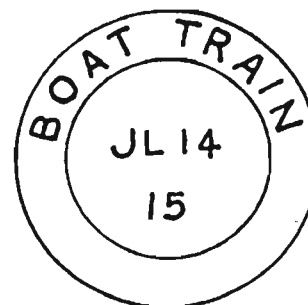
“Boat Train Letter Boxes

There are four boxes in the mail vans on the train leaving Apapa - two in the Kano sections, two in the Jos section. On the UP Boat Train clearances are effected at Kaduna Junction, Kano and Jos. On the DOWN Boat Train, clearances will be effected at Apapa only.

A late fee of 1d additional is levied on each item.....”

His list of the TPO postmarks does not include this one, but he lists skeleton c.d.s markings reading JEBBA IBADAN /TPO/ DOWN and IBADAN JEBBA / TPO/ UP with an EKD of 13 March 16. It seems likely that this 1915 cancellation is a forerunner, for use between Jebba and Apapa.

A history of the construction of Nigerian Railways can help to put the 1915 date in context. At that date the Western Railway was operational between Apapa and Jebba, with a ferry link across the Niger, then onwards by rail to Minna, connecting with the line from Baro to Kano. The Niger Bridge at Jebba opened in 1916, to complete the rail link from Lagos to Kano throughout. At that time the Niger River TPO was also in operation and care needs to be taken not to attribute River TPO cancellation markings to the railway.



D1 (14.7.15)

Figure 1

Reference

1. Ince J.F., *The Travelling Post offices of Nigeria 1903 – 1939*, pp11, 20-22, WASC, 1992

Cayman Islands to St Helena, c. 1963

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

At the Society of Postal Historians Conference at Buxton in May 2011, a member showed this cover, Figure 1, in a display of Cayman Islands.



Figure 1

1963(?) cover from Georgetown to St Helena with 'Paid Air Mail Letters' label

It was sent from Georgetown, franked with two 1/9d values of the 1963 Red Cross stamps, and addressed to George Moss, Rosemary Field, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic. The date of the c.d.s. is unclear, but was presumably sent during 1963.

Attached is a type-written label PAID AIR MAIL LETTERS / FROM GRAND CAYMAN W.I. / FOR with, in manuscript, 1/32 to (?) St Helena

The display included a similar label, slightly different format, on a cover to Hong Kong, Figure 2.

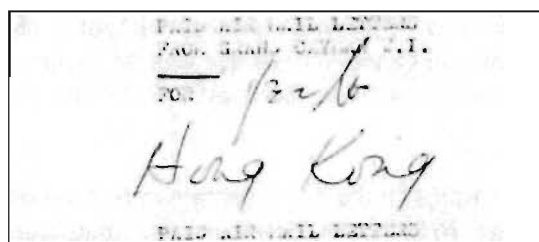


Figure 2
Label from the
Hong Kong cover



Richard Pepys—a pioneer in Sierra Leone

James Armstrong

The following article appears very belatedly in tribute to the late Jack Ince, who noticed the references to the early history of Sierra Leone in a longer article about Richard Pepys that appeared in the Honourable Artillery Company Journal, Autumn 2006, pp136-138. The following abridgement was helpfully written for Cameo by Mr Armstrong in his role as Archivist of the HAC in January 2007. It has sat in the pending file for Cameo for far too long, for which I apologise.

Richard Pepys, surveyor of Old Street, was admitted to the Honourable Artillery Company as a cadet on 6 March 1781, with the written consent of his father because he was then only eighteen. The minutes of the Court of Assistants show that he was born on 29 June 1762 for they note that he would be 'aged 19 yrs 29th June next'. The online International Genealogical Index and the parish register held at the Guildhall Library (MS9225/4) establish that he was the son of George and Agnes Pepys of the Minories and was christened at St. Botolph without Aldgate church within the City of London. George Pepys was apparently not a direct descendant of the famous seventeenth century diarist; he is not included in *Genealogy of the Pepys Family* (1887), compiled by Walter Courtenay Pepys. On 6 September 1781 Richard Pepys suffered a serious accident during the firing of a salute on the Artillery Garden for a General Court. His right hand and arm were shattered by the premature ignition of the gun cartridge he was loading and immediately had to be amputated just below the elbow.

The formal appointment of Pepys as the Company's first surveyor in November 1784 was in part recognition of the injury he had suffered three years earlier. In December 1791 the Court voted a further £150 to Pepys on his appointment as surveyor to the recently-established Sierra Leone Company and on condition he relinquish all claim for future favours. Having previously referred to the '*many instances of support & friendship I have experienced from the Honble Artillery Company, both individually and collectively*', Pepys thanked the Court for a sum '*which he said was beyond his expectations*'.

Pepys, accompanied by his wife and child, was among more than one hundred Europeans in the Sierra Leone Company's expedition to re-establish a free colony on the coast of West Africa for freed slaves and African-American loyalist refugees from Nova Scotia. They travelled on the first ship, which arrived in Sierra Leone in February 1792. At first Pepys was surveyor of buildings but he soon took on the additional responsibility of surveyor of lands when the holder of that post became unwell and returned to England. His duties included land surveying, bush clearance and laying out some of the streets in Freetown, as well as preliminary work on simple fortifications that subsequent events suggest ought to have taken priority over other work he was instead pressed to complete by settlers in the Colony.

Pepys was also a member of the Sierra Leone Council. In the distribution of land to the settlers, the Court of Directors of the Company acknowledged that he '*attempted with the greatest spirit to begin his operations, together with a party of Nova Scotians, even before the rains were over; but he was repeatedly stopped by sickness*'. Delays over the allocation of land to settlers caused resentment, in a Colony where squabbles seem to have been commonplace, and Pepys aroused the enmity of another settler, a white American loyalist, Isaac DuBois, who dismissed him intemperately in his Journal as an '*atheist*' and '*as black a hearted insinuating villain as this day exists*'. When a squadron of French ships attacked Freetown on 28 September 1794, Pepys and his family took refuge in the woods outside the settlement. His house in Freetown was looted and he learned of rumours '*that a price was set on his head*'. Sleeping outdoors without adequate shelter during heavy rains, Pepys contracted a fever and died early in October 1794. He was only thirty-two years old. The Governor of Sierra Leone saw his corpse in Granville Town on the coast a few miles from Freetown on 10 October. His wife and child survived.

An unflattering depiction of Pepys and his poor attitude to the black settlers in Sierra Leone can be found in Professor Simon Schama's book *Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution* (2005). It is to be hoped that at least his layout of some of the earliest streets in Freetown has survived the passage of time and the destructive civil war fought in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2002.

References

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2. Christopher Fyfe, *A History of Sierra Leone*, Oxford University Press, 1962, pp41, 44, 47, 49, 59 & 61.
3. *The Long Room*, Journal of the HAC, 28 (1951), pp109-111.
4. G.A. Raikes, *The History of the Honourable Artillery Company*, 2 vols, Bentley, London 1878-79, Vol II, pp 86-87, 112, 122-124.
5. *Substance of the Report Delivered by the Court of Directors of the Sierra Leone Company to the General Court of Proprietors on Thursday the 27th March 1794*, London, James Phillips, 1794, p15.
6. *Substance of the Report of the Court of Directors of the Sierra Leone Company Delivered to the General Court of Proprietors on Thursday the 26th February 1795*, London, James Phillips, 1794, pp7, 12-14.

Sierra Leone International Reply Coupons

Keith Hanman

I bought recently at a German auction a very attractive block of four Sierra Leone International Reply Coupons (Illustrated on the front cover, at 80%). Also in the auction were a similar block for Angola (unsold) and both the 1925 and 1930 designs for Gold Coast (which did sell). There were others from many different countries.

The auction house indicated that these were once the property of the former King Fuad of Egypt and had been in private hands up till now.

For a full descriptions of these Coupons, which in spite of the vendor saying that they were Postal Stationery items - under FIP rules they are not - can I refer WASC members to Philip Beale's book *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone*, pages 229 and 230. Here you will find a complete description of these attractive items from 1909 to 1961.

They make a very interesting adjunct to a display but regretfully cannot be shown competitively. It may be the first time that this block has been seen recently. The vendor describes the items, including the Gold Coast and others, as unique. I am very wary of using that term in a philatelic context but in this instance he may be correct.



WWII airmails from French Equatorial Africa

Barbara Priddy

Ed—this article is a revised version of one that appeared first in the Journal of the France & Colonies PS of June 2010 as a response to a query raised in March 2009 which Bob Picirilli and myself, Rob May had partially answered in the meantime. It is all conflated here.

Michael Barden, an Australian member of the Belgian Study Circle, sent scans of a 1942 airmail cover shown here as figure 1, from Port-Gentil in AEF to Perpignan in Vichy France, franked with stamps to the value of 13Fr and asked whether anyone could confirm that this was a valid wartime rate or could point him in the direction of relevant information. (Ref 1)

Bob Picirilli responded first (Ref 2). His research for his book (for a review see page 71 of this issue) included collation of many scans of similar covers.

“In August 1942, when the letter was sent, the domestic basis (or surface) rate was 1Fr (to 20g). But we do not know what the airmail surtax to France was at the time—simply because there was no direct airmail service between Free France AEF and Vichy France, and so no surtaxes to France were published. Consequently, understanding the 12Fr paid for airmail depends on what “leg” of the total flight the sender was paying for—and there are no markings to indicate what the sender expected in this regard”

“The 12Fr surtax does “fit” with the evidence of several other covers that there was a 6Fr/5g surtax at the time to the UK (or perhaps to any stop along the BOAC route from West Africa). In that case, the 12Fr represents double this 6Fr/5g surtax (letter of 5-10 grams). I am fairly confident that this is the basis for the 13Fr paid. I hasten to add that this 6Fr surtax is based on strong cover evidence rather than on published sources....”



Figure 1(front & reverse). Cover from Port-Gentil to Perpignan in Vichy France posted 3 Aug 1942

Rob May then wrote to the editor clarify the likely route this cover took. (Ref 3)

“At that date (August 1942) it could possibly have flown throughout, but ONLY on two conditions—that it weighed half an ounce or less, and that it was addressed to the UK or Eire. As this cover appears to be double weight, [ed: my mistake; 5-10g is less than half-ounce] and to a European address, it would certainly have been trans-shipped to surface mail to reach the UK. The airmail surtax was meant to accelerate the letter as far as it could go by air; which was within West Africa, then from the UK to Lisbon, and the OAT marking (applied in London) is a particularly nice piece of evidence that the airmail surcharge successfully paid for the second airmail leg to Lisbon by the BOAC/KLM land-plane service”

Rob also wrote *“What we do not yet know is whether the Free French colonies had access to the new lightweight northbound airmail service at the same (1/3d) rate.....There are plenty of airmail covers of this period from AEF and Cameroun to the UK; the problem for us is the lack of arrival back-stamps to show whether they flew all the way to the UK, or were trans-shipped at Lagos or Accra as before.”*



Fig 2: cover from Libreville to Lyon at 8fr 50 (probably 2fr 50 basic foreign postage in error, plus 6fr airmail fee) in June 1942, which, like Michael Barden's, went by air to Lagos and ship to UK, where the Par Avion instruction was cancelled: presumably it then went by ship to Lisbon.

I have to say first that I agree with Rob May's analysis of the route for the cover at figure 1: by air to Lagos, ship to UK, air to Lisbon. And with Bob Picirilli's analysis of the rates: 1fr basic domestic postage, 6fr per 5gm airmail fee. However this fee was for local airmail only: 6fr was the rate for the BOAC and Sabena services flying between Belgian Congo, AEF, Cameroun and BWA (Refs 4 & 5). There was no airmail rate for all-the-way-by-air service between AEF and France until 1944 (Ref. 6). I may also say that I think this cover was lucky to get OAT treatment in London, and would like to offer another cover from AEF to France in evidence (Fig. 2).

The endorsement on the cover shown at figure 2, 'via Accra - Lomé - Cotonou', also raises the question of why such covers were not just handed over to the French in West Africa: the sender clearly hoped that this cover would go by the Sabena service to Accra and then be transferred into the French airmail system. We know that mail was transferred from Lome to Accra and from Cotonou to Lagos (Ref 7). Fig 3 shows a cover from Bourgoin to Aboudéïa via Fort Archambault in May 1941 at 4fr 50 made up from 1fr basic domestic postage plus 3fr 50 airmail fee - the rate to AOF (Ref. 8): it came with the original letter, which starts out with words to the effect that the sender has just heard it is now possible to send letters from unoccupied France to AEF via Dakar. It went by air from Marseille to Dakar, where it was censored, reached Cotonou in July, was passed onto Lagos where it was again censored, then to Brazzaville where it was again censored, and finally reached Fort Lamy in September - clearly the journey from Cotonou (and possibly Dakar) to Fort Lamy was by surface.



Figure 3: front & reverse of cover from un-occupied France to Tchad by air to either Dakar or Cotonou, thence by surface mail

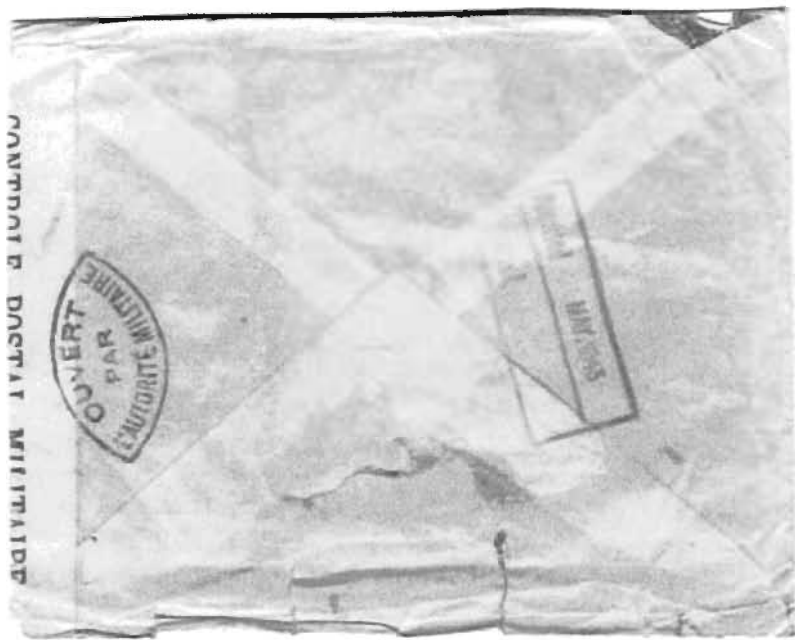


Figure 4

Fig 4 shows a cover from Dakar to Booué in Gabon in May 1942 with FM paying the basic postage and 3fr the airmail fee, carried by air between Dakar and Cotonou, then by surface: Lagos in June, Douala and Libreville in July and destination in August. But was mail also transferred from Lagos to Cotonou or from

Lome to Accra? On the evidence of the few covers available for study, I would suggest that the rule seems to have been that the originating country would carry the mail as far as it could in its own system, and that transferred mail was not entitled to onward air transport in the receiving country's system: ie mail from Free French AEF to France entering the British system was carried by air to Lagos and ship to UK and Lisbon, and mail from France to Free French AEF entering the French system was carried by air to AOF and by surface from Cotonou onwards.

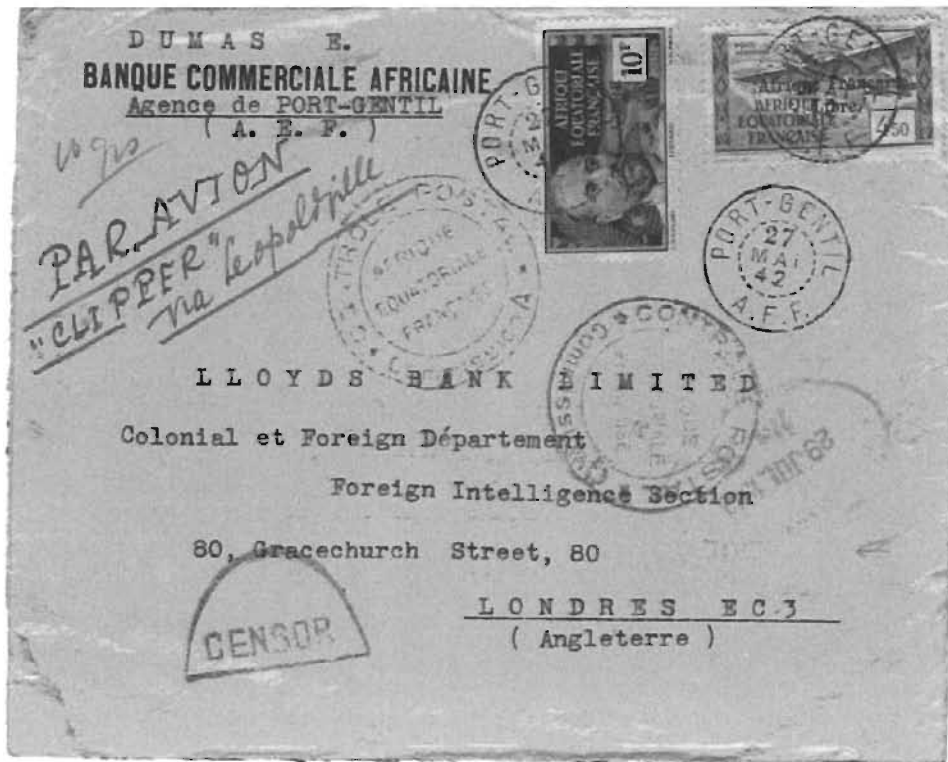


Figure 5; front and part of the reverse, showing only one back-stamp

Rob May also enquires about evidence for the BOAC service being opened (or not) to AEF mail to UK at the same time as British West Africa mail: I don't think this happened immediately. Fig 5 shows a cover from Port Gentil to London in late May 1942 at 14fr 50 (2fr 50 basic foreign postage plus 12fr airmail fee), carried by air to Brazzaville and Lagos, with the addressee's receiving date-stamp of 29 July. The weight was between 5 and 10gm, which is still less than ½ oz. I used to think that the routing endorsement 'Par Avion "Clipper" via Leopoldville' had in fact been obeyed, but the rate is clearly inadequate for the PAA double-Atlantic service. However, a year later, the cover shown in Fig 6, from Douala to London between 4 and 21 May 1943, must have gone all the way by air. Unfortunately it is missing an adhesive so we can't tell what the rate was!

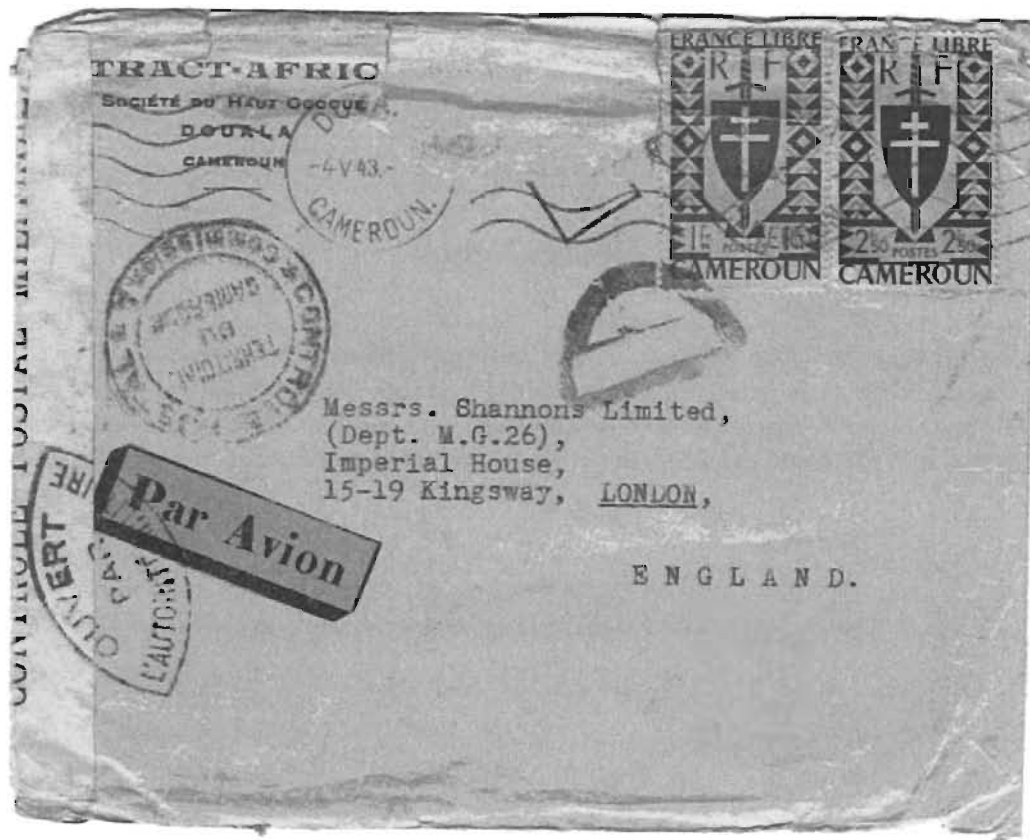


Figure 6

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2. Picirilli, R., "WWII Airmail Rates from French Equatorial Africa", *ibid.*, Volume 59 Cover piii, Sept 2009
3. May R., "WWII: Northbound airmails by the British route", *ibid.*, Volume 60 p8, March 2010
4. Rates: Bratzel M.P., *The Postal tariffs of Cameroun under French administration – 1916-1959*, MPB, 2007
5. Routes: *Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation, Appendix B.*, p129
6. The French Post Office guide to airmail rates for January 1942, *Renseignements sur les Relations Postale Aériennes*, shows a blank against AEF in the section 'Surtaxes Aériennes Applicables aux Correspondances-Avion à Destination de la France (Contrôle des affranchissements)'. I am most grateful to Marty Bratzel for copies of these guides.
7. Personal recollection of Michael Ensor.
8. Richardson D., *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005 3rd edition*, p73, France & Colonies PS, 2006

West African Military Airmail Letter Cards: the first Despatch October 1941

Robert Nelson

I saw with interest Peter and John Richards' article in *Cameo*, January 2011 (Ref. 1). I can illustrate two letter cards together with their internal messages. Figure 1 bears out the philatelic nature of most of the cards, but the other, figure 2, appears to be genuinely used with a proper letter home. Both letter cards bear the same censor mark (1580) and the same censor's signature as that illustrated in figure 1 of the Richards's article.

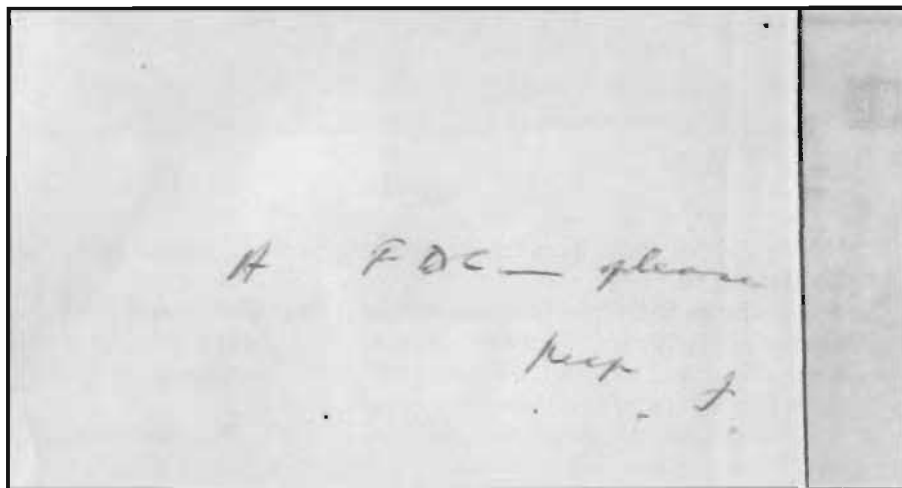


Figure 1 (message side is cropped)



1 October 41 - Some address !!

Dear Ma and Pop - not much to
report from here - except the air
Raeps beating down !! I did hear from
Tom a couple of days ago and Jack
Beason last week - his letter implied
he was not out - perhaps you know
where from his ma. Half the time we
don't know when we are enclosed. We've
just got these new air-mail letter cards
out here, but they cost us 20c to
test but if they get to you sooner
it's worth it, doubt if you can read
on the paper seems more like
bleeding paper - soaking up the ink.

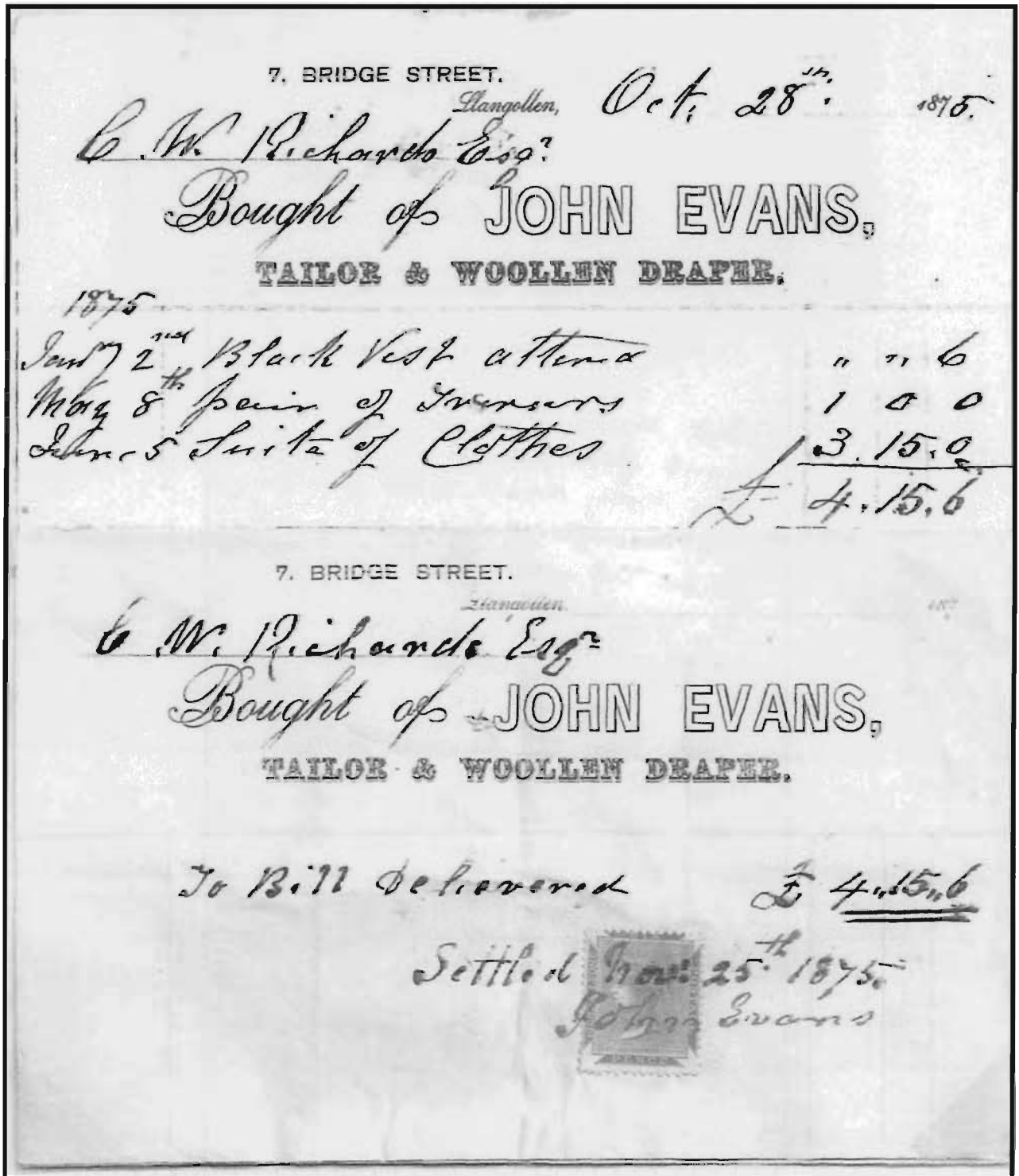
The news we get has not been so
encouraging from Russia, perhaps we
will hold Jerry off in the north of
or - and with. Well as I said not a
lot to report and just your own words
write most week and my boys would
not be wasted. Love of course
Bill

Figure 2 (message side reduced)

Sierra Leone 6d stamp used as receipt in the UK, 1875

Tom Butlin

Here is a curious extraneous use of a Sierra Leone stamp of 1872 (SG3) as a receipt for a the purchase of clothing from a draper in North Wales in 1875.



Togo Postal Stationery Cards, 1914

John Mayne

In August 1914 four postal stationery cards were in use in German Togo, as follows:

- 5pf single card (Michel P14) intended for mail to countries within the German postal area
- 5pf reply card (Michel P13) for the same purpose
- 10pf single card (Michel P10) intended for mail to non-German areas
- 10Pf reply card (Michel P12) for the same purpose

Although the 10pf reply card was re-designed, Michel P15, this card has not been recorded used in Togo and it is understood it was only sold over the Berlin Post Office counter.

These four cards were all overprinted for use by the British and French and released in August 1915, a year after the German surrender.

There is no record of mail volumes during the occupation, but having collected the area for over 30 years, I am confident in stating that external mail far exceeded internal mail. The latter is difficult to find, especially within the same sector; the majority of the internal mail seen passed between the British and French zones.

In 1915, the internal postcard rate in the British sector was ½d, and the external rate was 1d. It logically follows that there would have been a greater demand for cards meeting the external rate. Unfortunately, details of the number of German cards found, yet alone when and where they were discovered, remains a mystery. Why did they take so long to be brought into use? Robert Gibbs' opinion is that the majority of the cards found were single 5pf cards. With the German yacht stamps having been equally divided, it is not unreasonable to assume an equal division of postal stationery cards. Considering mail volumes in the French sector were undoubtedly lower, the cards overprinted for French use are much more difficult to find.

In 1914, 5pf was closely equivalent to ½d and the 5pf yacht stamps could have been used to meet the internal postage rate. However, with few 10pf values being found, it was decided to amend the 3pf stamps, for which there was no equivalent British rate, to ½d and the 5pf stamps were amended to 1d. Why, therefore, were the 5pf postal stationery cards amended to ½d, not 1d?

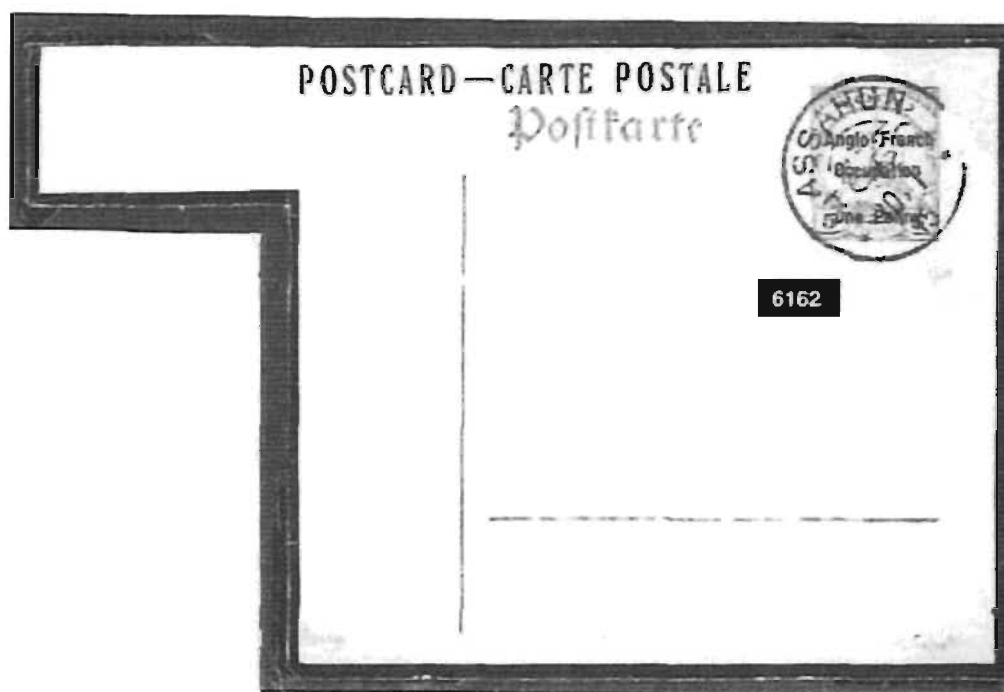


Figure 1; single 5pf card overprinted one penny (illustration copied from auction catalogue).

To further confuse the issue, Gibbs states he understood a 5pf single card overprinted 1d was known, but he had never seen one. I have a note that such a card is listed by Higgins & Gage and also Borek, but not Michel. In April 1994 I noticed such a card offered at H.B.A. Auctions of Hamburg, see figure 1, when I believe it sold for DM2300 plus fees. This card was cancelled-to-order with the German ASSAHUN strike dated 10.01.1915. It had the benefit of a Holcombe certificate.

A card with the same description and believed to be the same card was then offered in September 1995 by the German auction house Steltzer at DM10,000 plus fees. It is not known if it sold.

In September 2004 a second card came to light, offered at Euro5000 by Württembergisches Auktionshaus of Stuttgart, see figure 2. This card is also cancelled ASSAHUN on the same day, but note the different rotation of the postmark. It is believed the card was unsold. I failed to keep a copy of the catalogue description but I think it was offered with a Basel certificate. This second card was last noted in June 2010, offered for sale by Christöph Gärtner with the benefit of a Basel certificate dated 27.06.2004.

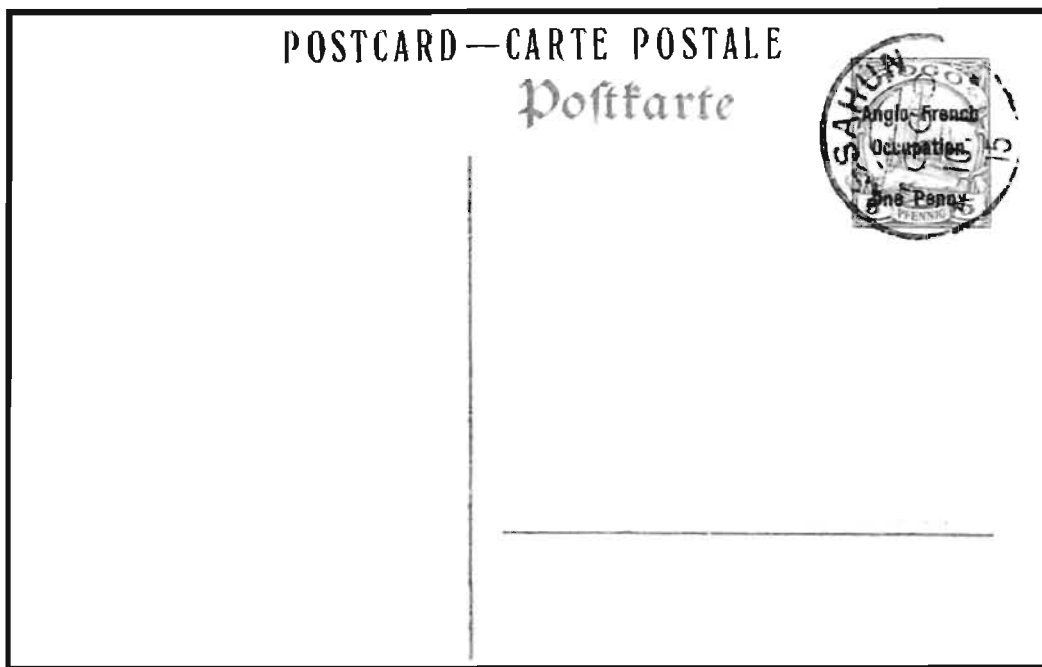


Figure 2



Togo censorship, 1917

John Mayne

Whilst I have examples of mail to the British sector from the French sector censored by the French and again on arrival at Lome by the British, I have yet to see any internal mail within the same sector that attracted censorship.

It is apparent that, after German prisoners were handed over to the French, some Germans still remained in Togo and were allowed free movement. Most of these were probably missionaries. Two recently acquired postal stationery cards are of interest, both sent to a German missionary at Amedschowhe, near Palime, one in May 1917 (figure 1), and the other in December 1917 (figure 2). Both were sent within the British sector and so, in line with my previous experience, show no evidence of censorship.

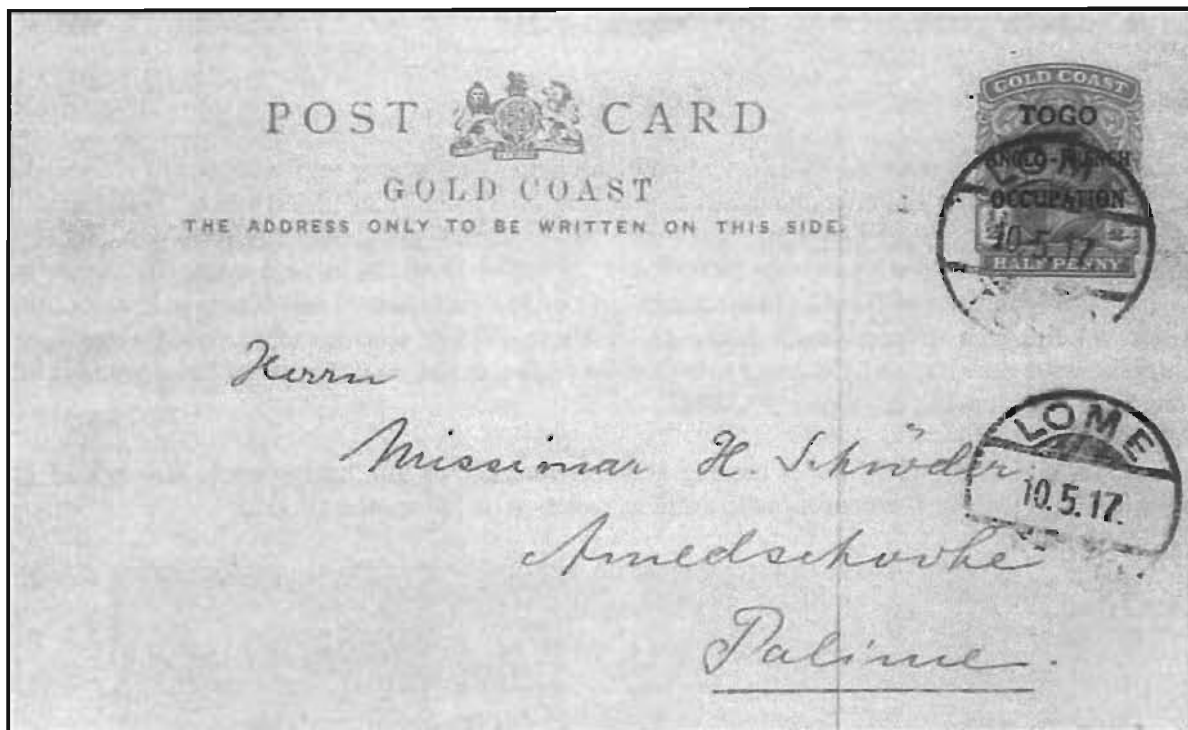


Figure 1; British PS card overprinted for Togo, posted 10 May 1917 at Lome, to Amedschowhe



Figure 2; British PS card overprinted for Togo, posted 9 Dec 1917 at Lome, to Amedzöwe (different spelling)



'Passed Press Censor' Cachet of St Helena

Peter Cottis

The Sunburst PASSED Sunburst / PRESS CENSOR cachet is very scarce on mail from St Helena during WWI. Hibbert recorded an example on a cover to Cheltenham posted 21 April 1918 (Ref. 1) and a postcard to Southsea, Hampshire on 23 December 1914 also has a similar strike, but this time it is signed with unidentifiable initials between the words PRESS and CENSOR (Ref. 2). In both cases the strikes are in violet. These uses are listed as Type 2 Censor marks both by Mabbett (Ref. 3) and Martin & Walton (Ref. 4). In addition, the use on a cover to South Africa on 10 March 1915 of a censor tape created by striking this handstamp in violet on white paper is listed in both these works. In this case the censor has signed his initials as before, and added 'opened &' above 'PASSED'.

I can now illustrate a registered cover bearing a fourth example of this censor mark, also posted on 23 December 1914 (Figure 1). The censor mark, again in violet, is on the reverse (Fig. 2).

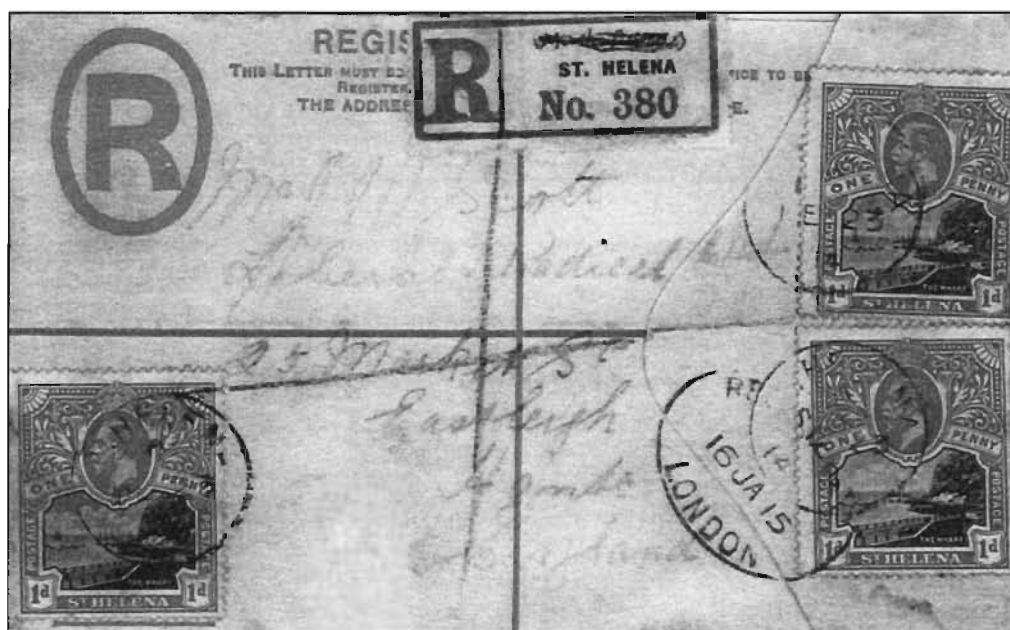
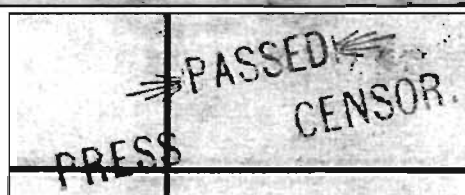


Figure 1 (above)
Cover posted 23 December 1914 and

Figure 2 (right)



The address is faint, but can be made out as Mxx Scott, Liberal & Radical Club, 25 Market St., Eastleigh, Hants, England. The handwriting appears to be of a different person to the sender of the postcard, also to Hampshire and cancelled the same day. But why was this cover not initialled by the censor as the card had been?

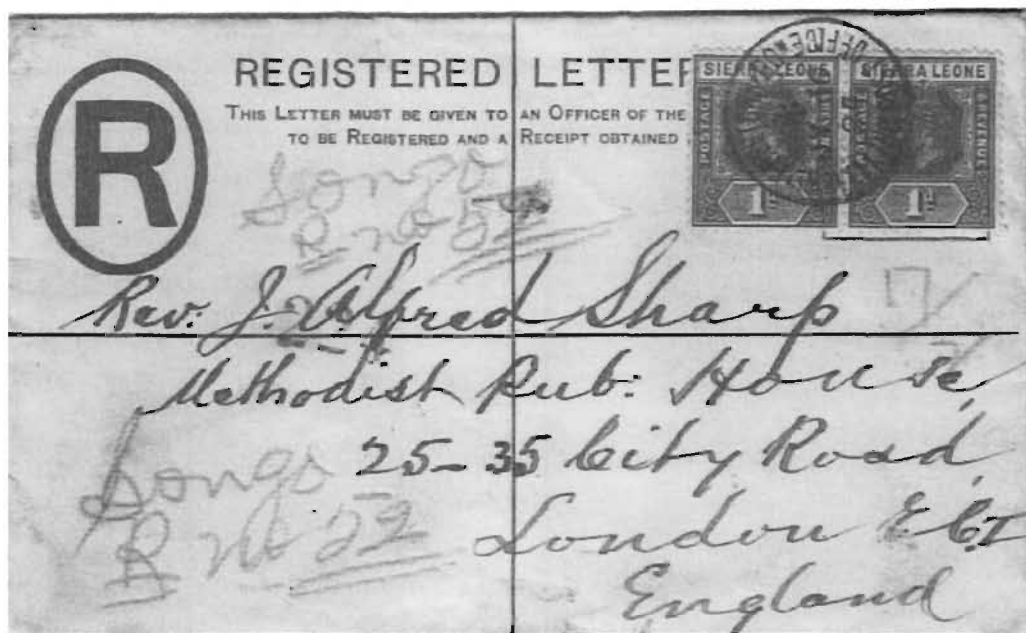
References

1. Hibbert E., "Passed Press Censor, St Helena", *Cameo*, Volume 2 p101, WASC, July 1981
2. Mabbett B., "For the Record", *St Helena Supplement*, Number 11 pp20-21, WASC, January 1989
3. Mabbett B., *St Helena, The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815 - 2000*, pp105-107, WASC, Dronfield 2002
4. Martin J.J., & Walton F.L., *West African Censorship*, pp78-79, WASC, 2nd edition, Dronfield 1999

Registered Mail from Songo, Sierra Leone in 1924

John Hossack

The earliest reported registration mark for Songo is a boxed hand-stamp for 15 September 1954, while the first registered adhesive label was not seen before 1960. (Ref. 1).



Illustrated above is a formular registered PS envelope sent from Sierra Leone to London at the 2d postage rate. The stamps were cancelled on the Freetown—Bo Travelling Post Office on 16 July 1924 at a time when the post office at Songo was closed. On the front, hand-written twice in pencil is 'Songo / R no 52'. On the reverse there is an oval 'REGISTERED / G.P.O. SIERRA.LEONE' postmark for 17 July applied at Freetown.

Presumably the cover was handed into the train when it stopped at Songo. This would be consistent with the advice quoted in Sierra Leone Royal Gazette for 17 October 1912 (Ref. 2).

"The public are hereby informed that postage stamps and envelopes can be obtained from, and registered letters will be accepted by, the travelling postman on trains between Freetown and Bo at those stations where there are no Post Offices"

As the Freetown—Bo TPO did not have its own registration hand-stamp until 1927 (Ref. 3) this may explain why the manuscript endorsement was applied.

Thanks are due to Frank Walton and Philip Quirk for information on Songo Post Office.

References

1. Walton F.L. & Quirk, P., *Sierra Leone Registration*, pp25 & 39, WASC, Dronfield 2010
2. Beale P.O., *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone...*, p38, RPSL, London 1988
3. Walton F.L. & Quirk, P., *Sierra Leone Registration*, p26, WASC, Dronfield 2010



Sierra Leone 1961 Independence Issue

Peter Rolfe

My attention has been drawn to an anomaly in this issue, which does not seem to have been noted previously. This concerns the £1 value (SG235). It was listed in the SG Elizabethan catalogue with plate 1a—1a. Surplus stocks of this value were then used for the second provisional overprint issue of 20 January 1965 surcharges “TWO LEONES / Le 2.00” (SG333) (Figure 1). This was also listed as plate 1a –1a. Further stocks were also used for the third provisional overprint issue, surcharged “Le 2.00” (SG349) (Figure 2). This is listed as plate 1-1, which seems odd.



Figure 1



Figure 2

I have not been able to check examples of SG235, but several copies of both SG333 and SG349 are, indeed, all plate 1a-1a or plate 1-1 respectively. So where does plate 1-1 come from?

This was a limited issue, withdrawn from sale on 31 December 1962, and only a single printing is known. The Crown Agents despatched all surplus material to Freetown on 17 December 1962 (req. 3383/4 including 44,580 of the £1 value) and presumably these formed the bulk of the surplus stocks.

Further investigation shows a similar discrepancy on other values. The Crown Agents' archive in the British Library shows a total order for all values of 103,420 sheets (plus an allowance for wastage), but a delivery of only 57,360 sheets of the special watermarked paper (Req. 3383/1). The Crown Agents further reported (Bulletin No. 341 dated 1 June 1961) that plates used were “Vignette 1 & 1a, Border 1 & 1a” without specifying any values. It would appear that all values were printed in two panes per sheet with both plates.

It is possible, but unlikely, that the surcharges are respectively to be seen on only one of the plates. It seems more likely that both plates may be found for all values, including the surcharges. The writer would like to hear from anyone in confirmation (or contradiction) of this view. So, please, has anyone possess or have seen plate blocks of any of these issues?

Sierra Leone: A Question of Authenticity

Robin Peters

This article is written in the hope that any WASC members can throw some light on the matters that are raised and so that future generations may have the correct information about some stamps that may be of doubtful provenance.

The UPU requirement for specimen overprints was dropped some time before 1964. On 10 February 1964 the famous first self-adhesive stamps were issued by Sierra Leone, namely the New York World's Fair issue (SG 285 to S.G. 298) and on 11 May 1964 the President Kennedy Memorial issue (SG 299 to S.G. 312).

Both these sets of stamps were printed by the thermographic method and not recess, as stated by Gibbons in their catalogue. The country name and inscription has a slightly raised surface. Specimen overprints are known and are illustrated below. The catalogue does not state which firm did the Specimen overprinting but Walsall Lithographic Co. Ltd would seem to be the likely contenders as they printed the original stamps.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 3: the left stamp is SG 304b, the 2/- extended A error



Figure 5: the flat matt printed 12mm Specimen on the "Postage" set

It is assumed that for the World's Fair sets the seven "postage" values were overprinted in orange-red, 11mm long (Fig. 1) and for the seven "airmail" values the overprint was done in black, 13 mm long (Fig. 2). For the JFK sets the seven "postage" values were overprinted in black, 11 mm long (Fig 3) and the seven "airmail" values were also overprinted in black, 13 mm long (Fig 4). On all of these the word "specimen" was printed thermographically and this all corresponds to the examples I have to hand. However a few years ago I think that I remember a well known Surrey based stamp dealer having the World's Fair airmail and both the JFK postage and airmail values with the orange-red specimen overprint for sale on his web site at a price far



Figure 6: the 18mm flat matt printed Specimen on the "Air mail" set

beyond my budget. I have requested further information by email from this dealer twice but have not received a reply.

I have now purchased from an ex-employee of the Sierra Leone Philatelic Bureau a set of the World's Fair Specimens. Upon inspection of these sets *both* the postage and the airmail stamps have been overprinted in a matt black ink *not* by the thermographic method. The "postage" stamps show the word *specimen* 12 mm long rather than 11 mm (Fig. 5) and on the "air mail" stamps *specimen* is in a much thicker font 18 mm long instead of the 13 mm long, thinner font of the Walsall style. (Fig. 6). I have corresponded by email to try to find out further information. The person who sold these specimen stamps to me has stated "*For specialists, you can have four different shades/fonts and three different colours*" and "*There are about four different specimen overprints for Sierra Leone stamps: two printed in Sierra Leone and two outside Sierra Leone*"

I have requested more details for this article but as of now no further information is forthcoming. Perhaps as mentioned previously any extra feedback from WASC members would be most helpful. I gratefully acknowledge the help of Peter Rolfe in compiling this article.



Nigeria: Re-entry on the 1953 2d 'tin mining'

Rob May

An un-mounted mint positional block of four of the 1953 2d black and yellow-ochre 'tin mining' definitive, which included the re-entry SG72b, row 1/5 of vignette plate 3, was sold through County Auctions of Basingstoke at the end of 2010. The illustration of this variety in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue is not of very high quality and can mislead buyers, so a reference copy is useful.

It was therefore no accident that I was one of at least two members of WASC who were under-bidders to another member who won it at £140. The buyer kindly consented to his acquisition being illustrated in *Cameo* but the resolution, which worked fine on screen, still did not provide a clear printed image of this rather feint variety. The example below, a used copy from Ray Harris (not in true colour), is the best I can do.

Note the doubling of black lines down the face of the terraces but also, not highlighted by Gibbons, to the right side of the worker standing between the rails and to the right of the skips.



Nigeria—More on the 2010 Definitives

Rob May

When I compiled our first report about this interesting new set of definitive stamps for *Cameo* (Ref 1) I missed one line of the text which therefore omitted to report a fourth N50 value, the design of which is inscribed “Lander Brothers Anchorage, Asaba, Delta State” and shows a monument with an anchor on top. By a lucky co-incidence it has since been reported by Moses Zacchaeus from Nigeria that there are now two known versions of this particular design, one printed by NSP&M Co Ltd. The issued definitive is shown as figure 1 and the NSP&M version is shown as figure 2. The NSP&M version is a completely different design which seems to have been the first of the two versions to have been produced, but was then rejected by NIPOST. It does not include a security hologram and has a copyright imprint dated 2009, instead of 2010.



Figure 1: the issued stamp by Kalamazoo



Figure 2: the alternative design by NSP&M Co Ltd

Ray Harris has now reported that the circular and square holograms are only part of the novel security features of this set of stamps. There more features visible under ultraviolet light:

- The stamps with the circular holograms, printed by Kalamazoo, also feature fluorescent yellow ink for the value and “NIGERIA” which a different ink from that used for other yellow parts of the design.
- There is a phosphor design, shown at figure 3, on the stamps printed by SIL (the ones with the square hologram). This phosphor design, a repetition of NIPOST and a pigeon sloping upwards at about 20 degrees, is not visible in ordinary light and, curiously, is not a continuous design either. Each “unit” of the design is the size of one stamp so that there is a disjoint at the perforations between each stamp.
- Although not seen on these definitives, some other recent Nigerian stamps have been printed on paper which includes random pale fibres about 3mm long to which the ink of the design does not adhere, so that there appear to be short scratches over the stamp. The 2010 GT Bank set exhibits this feature.



Figure 3. N100 definitive as seen under UV light

Finally, Ray Harris reports an earliest recorded date of use of the N500 National Theatre stamp with the new imprint “NSPMPLC” of 15 June 2010, unless anyone else knows of an earlier example.

Reference

1. Harris R. & May R., “Nigeria—new definitive issues in 2010”, *Cameo*, Volume 12 p10, WASC, January 2011

Printing Details of the 1924 Ascension 'Badge' Set

Barry Burns FRPSL

This set, sharing a similar design with the St Helena 1922 issue, was put on sale 20 August 1924, and consisted of the following 11 values: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 2s and 3s. At this time the 4d duty paid the registered letter rate to GB and the Empire (2d for 1 oz plus 2d registration). However, when the registration fee was increased to 3d on 1 April 1926 there was little demand for this value, and the 4d and 6d stamps were withdrawn and all stocks destroyed 20 July 1927 (Ref. 1), to be replaced by a 5d duty a month later.

The stamps were printed by typography by De La Rue & Co. in sheets of 60 in six rows of twelve columns. The paper was chalk surfaced for all values, and watermarked Multiple Script CA. The sheets were comb perforated, gauge 14.

Duty	Date Ordered	Number Printed		Date Dispatched
		Sheets	Stamps	
½d	6 March 1924	1019	61,140	16 July 1924
	2 September 1927	511	30,660	27 September 1927
	13 January 1932	1025	61,500	17 February 1932
1d	6 March 1924	1033	61,980	16 July 1924
	13 January 1932	1007	60,420	17 February 1932
1½d	6 March 1924	1010	60,600	16 July 1924
2d	6 March 1924	922	55,320	16 July 1924
	2 September 1927	503	30,180	27 September 1927
	11 February 1930	1006	60,360	25 March 1930
3d	6 March 1924	1015	60,900	16 July 1924
4d	6 March 1924	997	59,820	16 July 1924
5d	29 March 1927	339	20,340	23 July 1927
	11 February 1930	1004	60,240	25 March 1930
6d	6 March 1924	1006	60,360	16 July 1924
8d	6 March 1924	989*	59,340	16 July 1924
1/-	6 March 1924	1004	60,240	16 July 1924
2/-	6 March 1924	1000	60,000	16 July 1924
3/-	6 March 1924	1027	61,620	16 July 1924

* Beale and the ASC Handbook give this as 987, but is clearly erroneous

Table 1 Printing Details as Listed by Baker & Beale

Early works on the philately of Ascension Island gave little or no details of the numbers of stamps printed or issued, as the records of the Crown Agents were not available until late in the twentieth century. Ford (Ref. 1) gave issue dates and listed some varieties; Leonard (Ref. 2) added a greater number of varieties, and Attwood (Ref. 3) expanded this further.

As far as I know the first listing of the numbers printed and the dates of dispatch was published in the July 1980 issue of the *St Helena and Dependencies Philatelic Society Newsletter* in the article *Printings of the Ascension Island Badge Issue of 1923-33* by Richard C.F. Baker (Ref. 4). Sometime around 1990 the West Africa Study Circle published the booklet *Ascension Study Paper No. 2 - Ascension Island, The Crown Agents Records in the British Library* by Philip Beale (Ref. 5) which also listed the same information, as shown in Table 1.

When the Ascension Study Circle published their detailed study of the definitive stamps of Ascension (Ref. 6, but limited availability) in 2001 these same printing values were noted.

During the last couple of years I have been studying the Crown Agents Archive at the British Library, and have consulted the Plate Issue Registers and Paper Issue Books in addition to the Requisition Books. Unfortunately, the only plate issue details extant are from 1923-1930 and 1935-1956, and even more infuriating is that all the paper issue records were destroyed during the bombing of De La Rue's premises in London in 1940. The plate issue details do, however, give an indication as to the order in which the various duties were printed and are therefore of some importance; particularly so as they are not in the most obvious sequence.

Recently, I have also made several visits to the British Postal Museum and Archive in London, where the archives of De La Rue are deposited. These enable the Crown Agents records to be confirmed. In addition, they give the numbers which were distributed to dealers and the Island, and I believe these details are worth recording. As far as I am aware, they have not previously been published.

Table 2 shows the entries in the Requisition Books for the Ascension 1924 issue. I have tried to present them exactly as entered, using the (printed) column headings and the handwritten details as closely as possible - for example using the same format for dates etc. They should be self explanatory, and I have included the Requisition Book and Page Numbers for future researchers. The final two columns of the table are my own additions, to show the number of stamps (calculated from the sheets dispatched), and to add notes as appropriate.

Table 3 shows the only information for this set still available from the Plate Issue Register. Again, I have tried to present the (handwritten) information as it was entered. The initials of the personnel responsible for the issuing and returning of the plates are difficult to decipher, and I have made my best guess of these.

A couple of interesting points emerge from this table. The plates were securely retained by the Crown Agents and only released for each print run. Usually, they were returned the same day or within a day or so. However, the duty plate for the first printing of the 5d duty was issued for approximately four weeks, which suggest there was a problem with this printing.

Of particular interest is the release order of the plates for the initial printings in 1924 which was not, as may be expected, in duty order. As the printing of this design is a two stage process, the 'key' plate (the central vignette i.e. ship) is printed in a separate operation to the 'duty' plate (the frame, including ASCENSION and duty), even when the same colour is used for both. In the case of the Ascension set, the final two duties printed, the 3d and 1½d values, are the only two which use the same colour for both parts of the design. It is therefore clear that De La Rue must have printed the duties having the grey-black vignette first. However, it must be borne in mind that although the order of printing of the duty plate is as shown in the table, the printing of the key plate may not have followed this same pattern, and students looking for vignette varieties need to remember this.

Table 2 Requisition Books

Req Book /Page	Req No	Administration	Description	Duty	NO. OF		Stamps Per Sheet	Date Due	DESPATCHED		Remarks	Stamps Despatched	Notes
					Sheets	Stamps			Date	Quantity			
1/131	812	St Helena (Ascension)	P & R Stamps	½d	1000	60,000	60	16 July 24	1,019 Sheets		61,140	a	
			<u>New Issue</u>	1d	1000	60,000	60		1,033		61,980		
			Current St Helena Stamp with 'ASCENSION' Substituted for 'ST. HELENA'	1½d	1000	60,000	60		1,010		60,600		
				2d	1000	60,000	60		922		55,320		
				3d	1000	60,000	60		1,015		60,900		
				4d	1000	60,000	60		997		59,820		
				6d	1000	60,000	60		1,006		60,360		
				8d	1000	60,000	60		989		59,340		
				1/-	1000	60,000	60		1,004		60,240		
				2/-	1000	60,000	60		1,000		60,000		
				3/-	1000	60,000	60		1,027		61,620		
2/40	936	St Helena	Ascension P & R Stamps	5d	333 ²⁰ / ₆₀	20,000	60 Rect	3 June 27	339	All New Duties GPO Specs Required of each	20,340	b	
2/58	960	St Helena	Ascension P & R Stamps	2d	500	30,000	60 Rect	3 Oct 27	503		30,180		
				½d	500	30,000			511		30,660		
2/167	1104	St Helena	Ascension P & R Stamps	2d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	6 March 1930	1,006		60,360	c	
				5d	1,000	60,000			1,004		60,240		
3/35	1242	St Helena	Ascension P & R Stamps	½d	1,000	60,000	60 Rect	10 Feb 1932	1,025		61,500	d	
				1d	1,000	60,000			1,007		60,420		

Notes

a Although a new issue, there is no mention of Specimens

b Req. also includes St Helena 5d & 2/- duties

c Req. also includes St Helena 1d duty

d Req. also includes St Helena ½d, 1d & 2d duties

Table 3 Plate Issue Register

Page	Req. No.	Description	Plate		ISSUED			RETURNED			Made Up By	Specimens	Remarks		
			Key No.	Duty	Set	To	By	Date	By	To				Date	
4	ST HELENA 812	P & R	(ST HELENA KEY PLATE)	1/2d	60	Mr Sharman	CAB	25-6-24	Mr Sharman	CAB	26-6-24	Miss Cobbold	Spec taken	New Issue	
				4d	60	Mr Sharman	CAB	26-6-24	Mr Sharman	LHG	26-6-24	Miss Cooper	"	"	
				3/-	60	Mr Sharman	LHG	26-6-24	Mr Sharman	WEC	27-6-24	" Hutchings	"	"	
				1d	60	Sharman	WEC	27-6-24	Sharman	LHG	30-6-24	" Cooper	"	"	
				2d	60	Sharman	LHG	30-6-24	Sharman	WEC	30-6-24	" Cobbold	"	"	
				6d	60	Sharman	WEC	30-6-24	Sharman	WEC	1-7-24	" Cooper	"	"	
				8d	60	Sharman	WEC	1-7-24	Sharman	LHG	2-7-24	" Cobbold	"	"	
				1/-	60	Sharman	LHG	2-7-24	Sharman	LHG	3-7-24	" "	"	"	
				2/-	60	Sharman	LHG	3-7-24	Sharman	LHG	4-7-24	" "	"	"	
				3d	60	Sharman	LHG	4-7-24	Sharman	WEC	4-7-24	" Cooper	"	"	
				1 1/2d	60	Sharman	WEC	4-7-24	Sharman	LHG	7-7-24	" "	"	"	
				5d	60	P & R	No. 1 (Ship)	WEC	17-6-27	Gale	WEC	14-7-27	Hutchings	"	New duty
				4	St Helena 960	"	"	1/2d	60	Lewis	JFT (?)	21-9-27	Lewis	JFT (?)	Brown
2d	60	"	"					22-9-27	"	"	"	Helmer	C.I.		

The De La Rue records are kept at The British Postal Museum and Archive at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London. The Colonial Stamps Books list each requisition received via the Crown Agents, the Private Day Books give the invoice details, and the Crown Agents Correspondence Books contain letters between the Crown Agents and De La Rue. Of these, the Private Day Books give the best overview of the printing details, and Table 4 lists these for the Ascension badge issue.

Book/Page	Invoice Date	Reqn.	Duty	Set	Sheets	Stamps	Dealers Sheets	Dealers Stamps	Specimens
AG/198	17 July 1924	812	½d	60	419	25,140	600	36,000	409
			1d	60	733	43,980	300	18,000	409
			1½d	60	810	48,600	200	12,000	409
			2d	60	722	43,320	200	12,000	409
			3d	60	855	51,300	160	9,600	409
			4d	60	837	50,220	160	9,600	409
			6d	60	866	51,960	140	8,400	409
			8d	60	869	52,140	120	7,200	409
			1/-	60	884	53,040	120	7,200	409
			2/-	60	920	55,200	80	4,800	409
3/-	60	947	56,820	80	4,800	409			
AI/50	23 July 1927	936	5d	60	339	20,340			422
AI/105	29 September 1927	960	½d	60	511	30,660	There is no mention of any dealers' requirements for the four later requisitions, and Specimens would not of course be necessary for the last three of these as no new duties were involved.		
2d			60	503	30,180				
AJ/394	26 March 1930	1104	2d	60	1006	60,360			
			5d	60	1004	60,240			
AK/390	16 February 1932	1242	½d	60	1025	61,500			
			1d	60	1007	60,420			

Table 4 De La Rue Private Day Books

The numbers printed and dispatched agree exactly across all the sources consulted and reported here.

I would like to thank the staff and Curators of both the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, and of the British Postal Museum and Archive, for their help and for allowing the publication of this information.

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OFFERS FROM STOCK

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| <p>GAMBIA. 1881 3d pale dull ultramarine (CC upright) in complete sheet of 15 (1st Comb). Very fine mint. SG 14cB. £1200</p> <p>GAMBIA. 1880 1/- green with <i>watermark sideways</i>. Very fine mint. SG 19A. £300</p> <p>GAMBIA. 1898 4d brown and blue with <i>malformed 'S'</i>. Very fine used with BATHURST c.d.s. 'SP 15 98'. SG 42a. £550</p> <p>GAMBIA. 1902 2/- slate and orange with <i>dented frame</i>. Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 54a. £400</p> <p>GAMBIA. 1922 DLR 5d 'Elephant' frame Plate Proof marginal block of four in black on wove paper. £400</p> <p>GOLD COAST. 1875 6d orange. Very fine mint. An extremely difficult stamp in exceptional condition. SG 3. £575</p> <p>GOLD COAST. 1883 (CA) 1d blue. Very fine mint with the characteristic yellowed gum. Rare. RPS Cert. SG 10. £550</p> | <p>GOLD COAST. 1906 2½d dull purple and ultramarine in corner Plate block of four. Very fine mint. SG 52. £200</p> <p>NIGER COAST. 1893 ½d on 2d (Type 6 in violet) used with OCR c.d.s. 'MR 21 94' (earliest recorded date). SG 18. £300</p> <p>N. NIGERIA. 1901 cover to England franked QV 1d tied by 'Post Office Jebba 7/5/01' manuscript cancel in red. £275</p> <p>ST HELENA. 1876 2d yellow (Perf 14 x 12½) block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 22. £700</p> <p>ST HELENA. 1876 4d carmine (Perf 14 x 12½) in left-hand marginal block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 24. £750</p> <p>SIERRA LEONE. 1890 6d 'REVENUE' complete pane of twenty (Pane #10) with Plate number '1'. Very fine mint. £150</p> <p>SIERRA LEONE. 1963 3/- on 3d block of four including '1895' for '1859' (R.3/3). Very fine mint. SG 282a. £160</p> |
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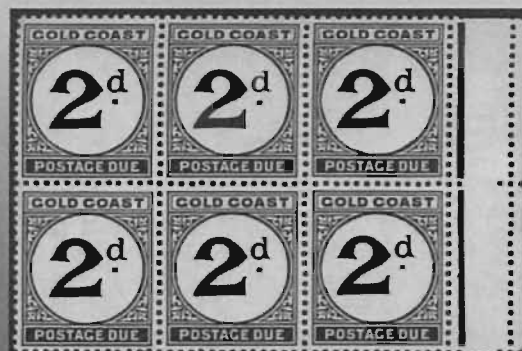


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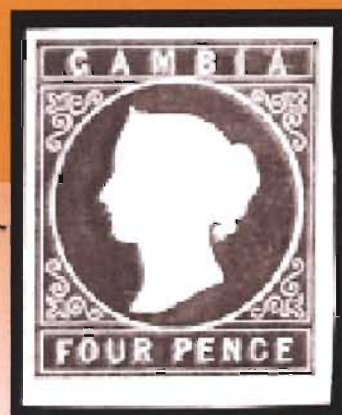
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